



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02254

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Full Time Reserves

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Prior to the 31st March 2011 by District and Department (Departments should include TSG, CPU, Stormont, OSD etc) how many police posts were filled by FTR Officers?

Question 2

Since the 1st April 2011 by Department and District how many posts have been identified and classed as security posts previously carried out by members of the FTR?

Question 3

How many of these roles require to be carried out by armed Police Officers from the regular PSNI

Question 4

How is this achieved, is it through payment of overtime or removing officers from other community policing roles.

Question 5

By District and department how many Regular Constables of the PSNI are carrying out armed security roles formally carried out by members of the FTR?

Question 6

By District and Department what is the extraction of regular officers on a daily basis from front line duties required to fill these roles.

Question 7

What has been the skills loss in respect of Driving Skills, Firearms Skills, Public order Skills and IT Skills with the departure of the FTR and what will be the cost for training Regular PSNI Officers to make up these lost skills.

Question 8

By District and Department what is the financial cost of filling these posts on a daily basis. What is the projected budget for filling these security posts over this next four years?

Question 9

What systems do the PSNI have in place to monitor and be accountable for these commitments?

Question 10

What additional contract in relation to filling security posts did the PSNI enter into with Resource, which did not require an armed guard?

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18 hours).

This information is not held in a central location within the PSNI and a response would require input from each of the eight District Command Units as well as the Departments. As such, each District and Department was asked to provide cost estimates for retrieving this information, if held. Responses indicated that the search for information by them would involve a manual trawl of various information sources and would amount to the cost of complying with your request exceeding the "appropriate limit". For example, obtaining information in relation to officers' duties would require a trawl of daily duty sheets. Since 1/4/11 to date there have been 110 days. One district alone has estimated that it would take a minimum of 8 hours to obtain this information.

In total it has been estimated that it would take in excess of 29 hours to retrieve all the information sought.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. It may be possible to provide a response to questions 1, 7 and 10 within the cost limit. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

You may also be interested in previous response to request number F-2011-00752 which is published on the PSNI publication scheme. This can be accessed using the link below;

http://www.psni.police.uk/redeployed_march.pdf

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by

emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.