



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00279

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Historical Enquiries Team

Request and Answer:

Question 1

As of 31 January 2011 please list the job title/description of every person working for HET. Where there are more than one person doing the same job, then please give the total number of people in that category.

Question 2

Please advise how many cases are being actively worked on as of this date.

Question 3

For each person who has been trained as a police officer working for HET, please advise the number of cases they are responsible for today. Please clarify if there is any overlap ie if more than one officer is working on the same case.

Question 4

Please advise the average length of time taken to complete every closed case to date.

Question 5

What time is allocated per case to the investigating staff?

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).

Information in relation to Question 4 is not held in an easily retrievable format. To calculate the average time taken to complete each review would involve researching the 1058 cases reviewed to date. It has been estimated that this would take 30 hours to complete at a cost of £750, exceeding the appropriate cost threshold.

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine this part of your request. However, the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before the fees limit was exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Answer to Question 1

Please see table below

DIRECTOR OF HET	1
PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR	1
EDITORIAL CONSULTANT	2
LEAD SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER (LEAD SIO)	9
FAMILY LIAISON COORDINATOR	1
INTELLIGENCE MANAGER	1
SECRETARIAT MANAGER	1
SENIOR PRESS OFFICER	1
SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER (SIO)	28
BUSINESS MANAGER	1
HR MANAGER	1
INVESTIGATING OFFICER (IO)	56
PTO (FINGERPRINT)	1
REPORT WRITER	3
FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER	3
INTELLIGENCE ADMINISTRATION	1
OPEN SOURCE RESEARCHER	1
PREMISES OFFICER	1
TRACING RESEARCHER	2
ASO	6
PHOTOGRAPHY	1
SECRETARIAT ADMINISTRATION	1
SGB1	2
TYPIST	3
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	128

Answer to Question 2

The HET is currently working on 405 reviews.

Answer to Question 3

The HET has nine review teams. The 405 cases are divided up between these teams. Some teams have more cases than others. In the allocation of cases, consideration is given to; links, complexity

and family concerns about who should investigate the case, e.g. independency.

As cases are allocated to teams it is common for more than one person to be working on the same case.

Answer to Question 5

We cannot estimate the time to be allocated to each review as the complexity of each is different. When a Review Summary Report is given to a family they may have identified issues which need to be addressed and this can further extend the time to complete the review fully.

The time allocated to each review can vary dramatically for other reasons. Existing case papers may be limited or numerous. There are cases of multiple fatalities. There are linked cases. As such a **reasonable time** is allocated to each review bearing in mind the amount of material to review and what further enquiries are required.

Ultimately the HET is family driven in that it will not consider a review to have been completed until their issues have been addressed as far as possible.

I can also advise that in the 62 months since January 2006 to date, 1058 reviews have been conducted by the HET.

Information that may be of interest to you, relating to the work of the HET can be accessed by clicking on the below link:

<http://www.psni.police.uk/historical-enquiries-team/het-introduction.htm>

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.psni.police.uk

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

confidentiality.