



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01830

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: PSNI / RUC Injury On Duty

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many Police Officers in PSNI/RUC (as far as records go back) have submitted an injury on duty report outlining the cause/condition of the injury as some form of hernia (abdominal tear)?

Question 2

How many have been accepted as an injury on duty?

Question 3

How many have been not been accepted as an injury on duty?

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, 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.

The information requested is not held in a central location within the PSNI but is held within the District Command Units and Departments. Each of the Districts/Departments were asked to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve the information requested. One District alone provided an estimated time of over 72 hours. Records have only been computerised from the early 1980's and prior to computers the information was held in individual member's files which would require a manual search of each file. Even now with the assistance of computer records the District would still have to manually check paper records held in each member's file as the computer information does not hold the level of detailed information requested. It is estimated that the total time required for all Districts/Departments to locate, and extract the information requested would take an estimated 27,332 hours.

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 however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible. I have also considered if the time period was condensed to cover the years 2009 – 2011, but unfortunately the Districts/Departments have advised that the time period 2009-2011 would still remain over cost.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

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.