



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-02733

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Medical Retirements and Permanent Duty Restrictions

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The number of Officers, within C District, who have been Medically retired as a result of sickness absence?

#### Question 2

The number of Officers, within the service, who have been Medically retired as a result of sickness absence?

#### Question 3

The number of Officers, within C district, who have been deemed to have a permanent duty restriction, where they will never be fit for front line duties?

#### Question 4

The number of Officers, within the service, who have been deemed to have a permanent duty restriction, where they will never be fit for front line duties?

### 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 (18 hours).

This information is not collated centrally within the organisation and would require input from all Human Resources Managers in each of the District Command Units and Departments. Therefore they were asked to provide time estimates for retrieval of the requested information. One Department alone has estimated that to extract the information from the relevant system would take around 10 hours.

The Department have advised that the fact that they were restructured over the four year period requested means that retrieving the information is complicated. To answer Q2 staff would have to run 8 reports up to 2009 and a further seven reports to cover from 2009 to present day. Then each individual record on the report would have to be reviewed to ascertain those who were medically retired. To answer Q4 staff would have to run 8 reports up to 2009 and a further seven reports to cover from 2009 to present day. Then each individual record would have to be reviewed to ascertain those who will never be fit for front line duty.

On average, retrieval time for each District and Department was 4 hours 45 minutes with a total estimated retrieval time of just under 62 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. It may be possible to provide responses to questions 1 and 3 (in relation to C District only) within the time limit. In addition it may be possible to provide responses for questions 2 and 4 for a specified District or Department or for a limited combination of Districts or Departments.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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