



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01909

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Number of Officers off sick who did not go onto half pay

Request and Answer:

Question 1

For the period of 1/1/10 to 15/6/11 how many officers who incurred more than 183 days absence in a rolling year due to injury on duty related sickness did not go onto half pay but had their right to full pay extended. I would also like to know, if possible, how many such officers there were by district and the nature of the injury.

Question 2

For the period of 1/1/10 to 15/6/11 how many officers who incurred more than 183 days absence in a rolling year due to NON injury on duty related sickness did not go onto half pay but had their right to full pay extended. I would also like to know, if possible, how many such officers there were by district and the nature of the absence.

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. Each of the Districts was asked to provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve this information from their systems. One District alone advised that their individual research would take an estimated 4 hours to retrieve the information requested. The District would have to run a report for officers off on sick absence during the period requested and collate the information by checking the individual records. It is estimated that the total time required for all Districts to locate, and extract the information requested would take an estimated 28 hours 30 minutes.

Each Department was also asked to provide time estimates and the total time estimated was 19 hours 5 minutes.

When the Districts and Departments provided over cost estimates the request was then sent to Finance Branch who can not provide the level of detailed information requested. The records held by Finance can not provide the nature of the sickness.

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. If your request was refined to one individual District or Region, it therefore may be possible that the information requested could be provided.

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.psni.police.uk

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