



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01661

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Probationary Constables

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Since 2004 within the PSNI how many probationary Constables have been served with regulation 13 papers as a result of an injury they received while on duty?

Question 2

Since 2004 within the PSNI how many probationary Constables have been served with regulation 13 papers due to the reason 'there is evidence that the Officer is not likely to be an efficient and effective Officer' resulting from an injury received while on duty?

Question 3

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have had more than two extensions to their probationary period?

Question 4

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have served probation for longer than three years?

Question 5

Since 2004 what is the maximum amount of time a probationary Constable has served on probation?

Question 6

What is deemed as exceptional circumstances when the probationary period has been extended for over the three year period?

Question 7

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been deemed to have exceptional circumstances as a result of an injury received on duty and their probationary period has been extended past the three year period?

Question 8

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been signed out of probation without completing the physical assessment?

Question 9

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been signed out of probation without passing the physical assessment?

Question 10

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been placed on permanent adjusted duties and have not completed their probation and physical assessments?

Question 11

Since 2004 how many probationary Constables have been placed on temporarily adjusted duties for longer than a three year period?

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 separate systems. One District alone advised that individual research would take an estimated 18 hours to retrieve the information. The request would entail reviewing each officer's file who was a probationer since 2004. The estimate would take between 30 minutes and 2 hours per officer's file and would cover hundreds of officers. It is estimated that the total time required for all Districts to locate, and extract the information requested would take an estimated 219 hours 5 minutes.

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.

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.