



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00182

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Promotions and Acting Up

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please could you tell me:

- How many police Constables have currently passed both Part I and Part II of their promotions exams to Sergeant (or completed a work based assessment module) but have not been promoted to that rank.
- Could you also tell me how many PCs are currently working as either acting or temporary Sergeants in your force.
- Please could you tell me how many Sergeants have currently passed their Part I and Part II promotions exams to Inspector (or completed a work based assessment module) but have not been promoted to that rank.
- Could you also tell me how many Sergeants are currently working as acting or temporary Inspectors in your force.

#### 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 in relation to Constables and Sergeants who have passed promotion exams is not readily accessible from the Human Resource system. A specialist report would be required by an external contractor and it is this that places the request over cost.

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. I have been advised that it would be possible to provide information based on those who were on the promotion list as of 31 December 2010.

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.

In relation to officers acting up and temporarily promoted, I can advise that the following information has been provided in relation to another similar request:

The figures for acting up for 20/01/2011 are as follows:

Sergeants - 22  
Inspectors - 6

The figures for temporary promotions for 20/01/2011 are as follows:

Sergeants - 56  
Inspectors - 27

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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