



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00390

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Regulation 19A - Enforced Retirement

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Please provide me with the following information:

Please confirm whether the force is currently, or has plans to, invoke clause A19 of Police Officers' contracts to force retirement after 30 years service.

Question 2

Please provide documentation and minutes of any meeting or discussions surrounding the invoking Clause A19.

Answer

The Director of Human Resources has confirmed that the PSNI has no plans to invoke Regulation 19A of the Pension Regulations. No actual meeting has taken place to discuss this issue however it was mentioned during a Senior Command Team meeting, in passing.

Please see extract from minutes below:

'DCC suggested that it would be useful to issue some clarity regarding the PSNI view not to invoke Regulation 19A of the Pension Regulations.'

Decision: Memo to be issued to the Service to advise that the Service did not plan to invoke Regulation 19a during this 4 Year budget period.'

Following this meeting an e-mail was issued to all Police Officers to indicate the PSNI's position. Please see a copy of the email referred to, at the end of this correspondence.

Question 3

Please provide details of how many police officers within the force are currently subject to consultation over retirement in relation to clause A19.

Question 4

Please provide details of their rank, length of service and age.

Question 5

Please provide the number of officers with over 30 years service in the force, whether they are being consulted over clause A19 or not.

Question 6

Please provide their rank, length of service, and age.

Question 7

Please provide information regarding what redundancy or pay-out officers are entitled to if they are forced to retire under Clause A19.

Question 8

Please provide details of pension entitlement officers are entitled to, if they are forced to retire under Clause A19. Is this final salary and on what percentage is this calculated.

Answer

Not applicable.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.

Not relevant to Request

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2011 11:57
To: [REDACTED] **Not relevant to Request**
Subject: : FW: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks:: PENSIONS REGULATIONS - REQUIREMENTS TO RETIRE

From: STEWART Joseph
Sent: 23 November 2010 10:22
To: zAll Police (Can only be e-mailed by at least Insp. or EO1)
Cc: zCS Top Team
Subject: 1.NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED-All Networks:: PENSIONS REGULATIONS - REQUIREMENTS TO RETIRE

Colleagues

The Command Team is aware that there is some speculation about whether the Pensions Regulations may be used to require officers with 30 years' service to retire. The speculation has been prompted by the reports in the media that the power may be used in some Forces in England and Wales.

I am writing to confirm that there are no plans to invoke the power. The intention is to provide reassurance to those officers who may achieve 30 years pensionable service over the next 4 years.

JM Stewart
Director of Human Resources

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03/03/2011