



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-03197

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Seconded Officers

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide full details of all officers from the force seconded on a contract basis or otherwise employed temporarily with colleague police forces or other state authorities around the world for the last five years.

#### Question 2

I would like the response to include, for each year during the period, the number of officers on secondment, locations, the length of detachment and the cost, in terms of wages, expenses and fees paid by the host authority, and any costs and/or benefits incurred by the force.

#### Question 3

Please also include details of the purpose of the secondment – eg drugs, investigations, gang-related murders.

#### Clarification

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 you advised that you were interested in international secondments only. You also agreed to accept the main purpose of the secondment and that “benefits” were to be taken to mean financial.

#### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 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.

To provide costs and details of international secondments would be a large, time intensive task. Each international secondment would need to be examined and monthly payroll details for each officer extracted. It has been estimated that this would take between 1-2 hours per officer taking the

request considerable over the 18 hour threshold for this part of question 2 alone.

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 this part of your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information requested 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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information relative to your request which was retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. Please see below;

Total number of officers seconded to international locations over the last five years are as follows:

2007 – 29  
2008 – 20  
2009 – 11  
2010 – 15  
2011 – 8

The locations to which officers were seconded are as follows;

2007 – Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Iraq, Poland and Turkey

2008 – Afghanistan, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Jersey.

2009 – Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Kosovo, Libya and Montenegro.

2010 – Afghanistan, Bahrain, Croatia, Ethiopia, Kosovo and Uganda

2011 – Abu Dhabi, Kosovo, Nepal and Tanzania

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.