



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01440

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Staff Employed On Temporary Contracts

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

#### Question 1

How many staff are employed on temporary contracts within all departments of the PSNI?

#### Answer

I have been advised that as of 7 June 2011 there are 592 'Temporary staff' within all departments of the PSNI.

#### Question 2

How many recruitment agencies are used to provide staff - both temporary and permanent?

#### Answer

PSNI Human Resources have advised that 2 recruitment agencies are used to provide staff.

#### Question 3

How much money has been paid to recruitment agencies over the past 5 years? Please break this down into year by year groups. (NB: I am not asking for the agencies to be named and therefore an answer would not breach commercial confidentiality clauses.)

#### Answer

The PSNI Procurement to Pay Unit have retrieved the figures below specific to the criteria –

Payments to Suppliers by Financial Year exclusive of VAT which include "Recruitment" or "Personnel Services" in the supplier name. The Financial Year is defined as the period 1st April - 31st March.

06/07 - 13,582,699.61

07/08 - 15,258,098.14

08/09 - 12,850,246.10

09/10 - 14,068,759.02

10/11 - 17,993,580.71

#### **Question 4**

Are there any plans to (or has a decision been taken) to end the employment of temporary staff?

#### **Answer**

It is the PSNI's intention to reduce reliance on agency workers. We are currently reviewing a number of resourcing options to meet organisational needs within the coming 4 year cycle. It is important to note, however, that agency staff are not employed by this organisation, they are engaged to provide an agency service.

#### **Question 5**

If so - when will that happen?

#### **Answer**

A number of resourcing challenges exist within the organisation as a result of uncertainty in sustainable funding. Once affordability over the longer term has been established, the strategic principles can determine the distribution priorities, timescales and necessary deployment practices.

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](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.