



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03450

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Station hours and rotas

Request and Answer:

Question

Can you supply me with a list of all PSNI stations which are currently operating a 4 day on 4 day off rota and the length of time each station has been operating that system.

Question

In relation to number 1 can you supply me with the overtime figure for the period of time that this rota system has been in operation and have the overtime figures for the same period of time when the station operated in the old 10 hours system. These details should be broken down against each station.

Question

Can you supply me with each stations levels of sickness whilst in the 4 on 4 off system and have the comparative sickness levels when each station was operating in the old system.

Question

Can you also supply me with a list of the number of form 5s and 5As for each station while operating in the 4 on 4 off system and have comparative figures for the same length of time in the old rota system i.e. 10 hour duty.

Clarification was received that the request included both Districts and Departments.

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 each of the District Command Units and Departments. I contacted each of the Districts/Departments to

provide time estimates as to how long it would take to retrieve the information requested. There were a number of the Districts and Departments that provided nil returns as they do not operate the 'four on four off' duty system. However one District alone that does operate the 4 on 4 off duty system advised that to retrieve the information for each area within their district where the 'four on four off' duty was performed they would have to run a computer report to capture both sick absence and Form 5's. The reports would require to be run for each year and the information analysed, however this information would not capture officers who have transferred within this period. This District alone has advised that it would take an estimated 19 hours to retrieve the information. The Districts and Department that operate the 'four on four off' duty system have advised that to locate, and extract the information requested would take a total estimated time of 67 hours and 15 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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved 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.

The Districts and Departments who currently perform the 'four on four off' duty system are:
A District - Custody and Call Handling, C District - Custody, E District - Bessbrook and Call Handling, F District – Lisnaskea and Call Handling and within the Departments Armed Response Vehicles (ARV) and Belfast Regional Control (BRC).

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.