



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01182

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: TSG Assessment

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- fully exempt information in response to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 44(1)(a) and;
- disclose information in response to questions 2, 3 & 4 in full.

Question 1

I have completed an assessment for the TSG in Steeple on 22/03/2011.

I request details of how the marking was applied and what criterion was determined for each scenario.

Answer

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered are listed below:

Section 44 (1)(a)- Prohibitions on disclosure is a Class based exemption, therefore it is not necessary to evidence the harm caused by disclosure. It is also an Absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not necessary.

All requests made under FOIA are applicant blind. A release under the FOI Act is a release into the

public domain, not just the individual applicant.

Your request has been made via an internal email address and I am satisfied that you are a serving officer. The information requested under FOI has already been requested under Data Protection (Rights of Access) and it was not released.

Under Section 44 of the FOIA, information is exempt from disclosure if it is prohibited from being released under any other enactment. Where there is another piece of legislation governing the release of certain categories or types of information, these are sufficient grounds to refuse release under an FOI request.

The data was deemed to be exempt from the Rights of Access under Schedule 7, Miscellaneous Exemptions 9 - Examination Scripts. In this instance the information requested will fall within the definition of 'Examination', which includes any process for determining the knowledge, intelligence, skill or ability of a candidate by reference to his/her performance in any test, work or other activity.

This information is exempt under Data Protection law and therefore should not be disclosed under any other legislation.

Question 2

Also, what was the pass mark to get on to any merit list, the highest mark and the lowest.

Answer

The lowest pass mark for the merit list was 51 and the highest was 115.

Question 3

I would also like to know the following:

Breakdown of number attending the final assessment:
by gender
by religion
by District

Answer

Please see the tables below:

Final Assessment		
Gender	No.	%
Male	79	91.86
Female	7	8.14
Total	86	

Final Assessment		
Denomination	No.	%
Protestant	47	54.65
Catholic	38	44.19
Undetermined	1	1.16
Total	86	

Final Assessment	
District	No.
A	3
B	9
C	16
D	10
E	9
F	13
G	16
H	10
Total	86

Question 4

The total number who passed and the pass mark to get on the list.
 by gender
 by religion
 by District

Answer

Please see the tables below:

Passed List		
Gender	No.	%
Male	46	92
Female	4	8
Total	50	

Passed List		
Denomination	No.	%
Protestant	28	56
Catholic	21	42
Undetermined	1	2
Total	50	

Passed List	
District	No.
A	2
B	6
C	10
D	6
E	5
F	7
G	8
H	6
Total	50

The pass marks required were as follows:

Use of Force Exercise - minimum pass mark - 23 out of a potential 50

Search Exercise - minimum pass mark - 23 out of a potential 50

Shield Exercise - minimum pass mark - 5 out of a potential 15

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.