



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03137

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Compensation Payouts

Request and Answer:

Question

How much has your force paid out in accident or personal injury compensation to employees in each of the past five years? Please break down the response by calendar year.

Question

Please list, with detail, all compensation payouts over £10,000 in the past five years. Please explain what the claim was for, when it was made and when the accident happened, the total paid out, and the job title of the employee who made the claim.

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.

I contacted our Legal Services Branch in an attempt to retrieve the information you have requested. Our Legal Services Branch advised that to provide the requested information they would have to review existing management information for the time period requested and then compile a list of the relevant files of which there are an estimated 600 files. This part of the retrieval process is estimated to take over 5 hours. Once the relevant files have been identified they would then have to be manually retrieved from an off site store which is estimated at taking over 9 hours to complete. Each file retrieved would then have to be read and the relevant information extracted, this process is estimated to take 5 minutes per file which in total would amount to over 50 hours. It is therefore estimated that the total time to locate and extract the information requested would take over an estimated 64 hours.

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 of Information Act, I have attached at the end of the response 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.

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.

		2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Hearing Loss Claim						
Police	Number of Claims	17	66	109	197	253
	Compensation Paid	£245,250	£1,030,750.10	£1,528,500.04	£2,858,875.09	£3,741,619.25
Civilian	Number of Claims	0	0	0	0	0
	Compensation Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Collisions						
Police	Number of Claims	2	5	0	8	3
	Compensation Paid	£23,365.00	£326,511.76	-	£478,768.89	£57,500
Civilian	Number of Claims	0	0	0	0	0
	Compensation Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Slips / Trips						
Police	Number of Claims	3	7	4	1	3
	Compensation Paid	£175,809.69	£250,542.54	£77,000	£30,000	£92,500
Civilian	Number of Claims	1	1	1	2	0
	Compensation Paid	£15,000	£15,000	£30,327.50	£31,833	-
Other Claims						
Police	Number of Claims	15	5	4	7	3
	Compensation Paid	£431,024.90	£246,000	£134,519.50	£278,750	£33,072.75
Civilian	Number of Claims	5	2	4	0	1
	Compensation Paid	£158,004.89	£29,000	£70,112.94	-	£15,427.25
Total number of claims		43	86	122	215	263
Total amount of compensation paid		£1,048,454.48	£1,897,804.30	£1,840,459.94	£3,678,226.89	£3,940,119.25