



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03223

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Personal Injury Compensation Claims

Request and Answer:

Please note: I recently made a similar FOI request on Compensation Payouts. This FOI is a separate request and does not replace the earlier one.

Question 1

Please provide the total amount that has been claimed in each case.

Question 2

How many personal injury compensation claims made by employees since January 2010 are currently ongoing (ie. Have not yet been settled with a payment or dismissed).

Question 3

Please provide a brief outline of the alleged circumstances of each case, with as much specific detail as possible without identifying the claimant.

Question 4

In each case, please give the job title of each claimant. In cases where the job title might identify the claimant (eg. Chief Constable), please provide a generic job title (eg. Police Officer/Back office staff).

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.

In an attempt to retrieve the information to respond to your request I contacted Legal Services Branch who holds the information centrally. However, for Legal Services Branch to retrieve the information they would firstly have to compile a report containing all the claims registered 01/01/2010 – 30/09/2011. This information would then have to be cross referenced with the existing information to ascertain which claims have been concluded and which claims that are still ongoing. Then only after this information was extracted could a list of the specific cases and job titles be compiled. It is therefore estimated that the total time required to locate, extract the information requested would take over an estimated 20 hours.

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.

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 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.

Searches were conducted which failed to locate any records to the level of detail outlined in your request as claimants are not required to specify the amount claimed in a civil claim. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

There are a total of 3,341 personal injury compensation claims made by employees since January 2010 and are currently ongoing.

Claims registered since 1 January 2011 not yet concluded

| Type of Claim | Police | Support Staff | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Hearing Loss | 3194 | 1 | 3195 |
| Slips/Trips | 16 | 10 | 26 |
| Road Traffic Collisions | 19 | 5 | 24 |
| Other | 64 | 32 | 96 |
| Total | 3293 | 48 | 3341 |

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.