



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-01493

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Pension payments made in error

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

### Question 1

This is a request for information about pension payments made in error to dead retired police officers or staff uncovered by your internal audit team. They may have looked at the matter as part of the National Fraud Initiative. Please could you:

Tell me the number of people, retired officers or staff, who have continued to receive pension payments despite being dead that your authority has detected over the past three financial years.

### Answer

In 2009 / 2010, there were a total of 5 cases. In 2010 / 2011, there was a total of 1 case and in 2011 / 2012, there was also 1 case.

Please note these cases only relate to ex police officers and dependants. Information in respect of ex police staff is not held by PSNI as Pensions for police staff is administered by Civil Service Pensions, Department of Finance and Personnel.

### Question 2

Tell me the total value of pension payments that have been made unnecessarily to dead former officers and staff, broken down by each of the past three financial years.

### Answer

In 2009 / 2010 the total of payments made was £2,093.70. In 2010 / 2011 the total payments made were £585.91 and 2011 / 2012 the total was £269.51.

It is the policy of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Pensions Branch to seek recovery of all overpayments. On rare occasions, after vigorous attempts, it becomes inevitable that recovery of the overpayment is not possible. The losses detailed above were pursued but could not be recovered cost effectively. They were therefore classified as bad debts and written off.

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.