



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00849

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Recruitment Figures

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

I am therefore emailing regarding current, up-to-date statistics on the recruitment figures of the PSNI and including the figures of the number of Catholics and Protestants, as this is appropriate. As these cannot be found online, I would also be grateful if you could provide me any other statistics on recruitment from the reformation of the RUC and onwards.

Answer

Whilst the Patten Report refers to an equal number of Protestant and Catholic appointments, the temporary provisions contained within The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 referred to appointment of an equal number of Catholic and non-Catholic candidates.

The legislative requirement therefore sets out the obligation, and it is important to clarify the context before providing the following statistics.

Prior to the formation of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in November 2001, the Royal Ulster Constabulary had a representation of 8% Catholic police officers. Following the period of Patten reform, this figure currently stands at 30.3%.

During the period 2001 – 2011, 4,274 student officers were appointed under the 50/ 50 arrangements

Further information in relation to Workforce Composition Figures can be accessed via the PSNI website by using the link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_workforce_composition_figures.htm

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.