



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00332

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Compensation Settlements

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The number of compensation settlements paid by your force to members of the public annually from 2001 to 2011.

#### Question 2

The total sum paid in compensation to members of the public annually by your force from 2001 to 2011.

#### Question 3

Brief details of the nature of the damages for which members of the public were compensated in each case, split by year and covering 2001-2011.

#### 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 (18 hours).

To provide the information requested in Question 3 of your request would require a manual trawl of all records to identify those claims that were settled on terms endorsed. This process would require the retrieval and examination of more than 3,000 claims. Taking approximately 5 minutes per file, it is estimated that this exercise alone would take around 250 hours to complete, greatly exceeding the 18 hour cost limit.

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. Legal Services Branch has advised that they may be able to provide a breakdown detailing the type of case, total number settled per year and the total amount paid per year.

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 prior to realising 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 of the remainder of the request.

### **Answers 1 and 2**

Please see the table at the end of this correspondence detailing the amount of compensation paid to members of the public and the number of claims per year from 2001 to 2011. Such claims fall into the following categories:

AW claims – claims from members of the public alleging wrongful arrest, assault by police etc

PI claims – claims from members of the public for slips, trips or falls

AT – claims from members of the public for alleged damage to property as a result of ATO action

CP – claims from members of the public for alleged damage to property as a result of police action

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](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.

**COMPENSATION PAID TO MEMEBRS OF THE PUBLIC  
2001 TO 2011**

| <b>YEAR</b>  | <b>NO. OF CLAIMS</b> | <b>COMPENSATION PAID</b> |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2001         | 494                  | 1,327,163.72             |
| 2002         | 364                  | 871,874.22               |
| 2003         | 440                  | 895,915.17               |
| 2004         | 476                  | 501,753.38               |
| 2005         | 205                  | 718,429.49               |
| 2006         | 225                  | 465,595.16               |
| 2007         | 191                  | 413,103.04               |
| 2008         | 164                  | 397,367.88               |
| 2009         | 140                  | 290,902.34               |
| 2010         | 264                  | 421,953.26               |
| 2011         | 173                  | 445,713.72               |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>3,136</b>         | <b>6,749,771.38</b>      |