



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02188

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Information Technology

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 1 to 10 in full;
- fully exempt information in response to question 11 pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 (a) and (b) and Section 40 (2) (a) and (b) by virtue of Section 40 (3) (a) (i) of the Act.

Question 1

I would be grateful if you could supply the following information which I would like to receive by email. The information should be as up-to-date as possible but not older than 3 months.

If your IT is not totally outsourced then how many individual staff – NOT whole/full time equivalents – are employed within your IT Department?

Answer

The total number of staff employed in the IT Department is 167.

Question 2

To which company or companies are the following areas of IT outsourced:
Infrastructure?

Answer

The outsourced company used for IT infrastructure are Fujitsu.

Question 3

To which company or companies are the following areas of IT outsourced:
Desktops/Laptops/Thin Clients?

Answer

The outsourced company used for Desktops/Laptops/Thin Clients are Fujitsu.

Question 4

To which company or companies are the following areas of IT outsourced:
Systems Development / Applications Management?

Answer

This question is not applicable to PSNI.

Question 5

(Can you please answer the questions 3 to 8, even if your IT is outsourced)

How many Desktops are in use?

Answer

There are a total of 8500 desktops in use.

Question 6

How many Laptops are in use?

Answer

There are a total of 500 laptops in use.

Question 7

How many Thin Clients are in use?

Answer

There are no Thin Clients in use.

Question 8

Which server platform(s) and operating system(s) do you use?

Answer

The server platforms and operating Systems used are, HPUNIX, Solaris, MS Windows Server and Linux.

Question 9

How many Physical Servers are in use?

Answer

There are a total of 197 Physical Servers in use.

Question 10

How many Virtual Servers are in use?

Answer

There are a total of 293 Virtual Servers in use.

Question 11

What is the name and job title of the most senior person in IT?

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and

(c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In order to assist you I have decided to release the job title of the most senior person in IT, which I can confirm is currently Acting Head of Information and Communication Services; however I have decided not to release the name of the person.

The exemption/s, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 38 (a) and (b) – Health and Safety

Section 40 (2) (a) and (b) by virtue of Section 40(3)(a)(i) – Personal Information

Section 38 Health and Safety is a prejudiced based exemption which means that the PSNI must demonstrate that it is satisfied that to release the information would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual.

It is also a qualified exemption which means that the PSNI must consider the balance of the public interest in releasing the information against the public interest in withholding it.

A summary of the Harm and public Interest Test considerations for Section 38 is provided below:

Harm Test

Section 38

Disclosure of the names of individuals in roles other than those in senior positions within the PSNI could place individuals at risk and impact on their safety. The PSNI is currently under high threat from terrorists and releasing names of personnel could assist these terrorists in targeting individuals.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release – Section 38

Releasing the information would promote openness and transparency. The public would be better informed about staff roles within the service.

Factors Favouring Retention – Section 38

Releasing the names of individuals who work within the PSNI into the public domain may assist terrorists and criminal elements to carry out attacks on these persons.

Decision

I have determined that the release of the name of a staff member who holds the post of Acting Head of Information and Communication Services into the public domain would not be in the public interest. The Service is currently under a high threat from terrorists and disclosure of this information has the potential to assist those seeking to carry out attacks against police officers/ staff. The safety of any individual is of paramount importance and the PSNI will not divulge any information which could put lives at risk.

Section 40 Personal Information is a Class-based exemption, therefore it is not necessary to evidence the harm caused by disclosure. The data protection rights of a third party would be breached by disclosure, therefore Section 40(2) is an Absolute exemption and a Public Interest Test is not necessary. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998).

All requests made under FOI are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain and not just to an individual.

Personal Data is regulated under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and when information contains personal data about a third party it can be released if disclosure would not

breach any of the data protection principles.

Principle 1 is that personal data must only be processed lawfully and fairly.

Members of staff are entitled to protection under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Service would be failing in its lawful duty were it to breach the Data Protection Act in order to furnish a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. To release the member of staff's name in association with their role and employer would in effect be a release of personal information into the public domain. The Service has a duty to protect the personal data of all individuals. Any information that has the potential or carries a risk that someone could be identified or the release would have an adverse impact on PSNI staff will not be disclosed into the public domain.

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.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.