



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-01646

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Pre-Employment Checks

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

People who have criminal records and apply for a job in the police force are subject to Criminal Record Bureau checks is this correct?

Answer

Yes.

Question 2

So if this is not the case that they do not require CRB checks how can the public have faith that you are working within the law?

Question 3

What do you not consider inappropriate behaviour for a job in the Police Force?

Question 4

Why are police officers employed by yourselves and have been convicted of serious crimes still working for Carrick and Seapark PSNI for instance?

Answer

Please be advised that questions 2 to 4 of your request take the form of questions which require a member of the Service to express an opinion. As such they do not fulfil Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act as they are not requests for specific recorded information held by the PSNI.

Please be advised that all applicants to the PSNI are required to undergo a vetting procedure. Please see the link attached below which outlines the Service Vetting Policy for the Police Community.

http://www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_0110.pdf

Question 5

How many Police Officers in 2010, 2011, 2012 have been convicted of crimes?

Answer

Thirty-nine officers received a criminal conviction in the time-frame requested. This figure outlines the number of officers serving at the time of conviction, but may no longer be serving now.

Question 6

How many police officers are still employed by yourselves with criminal records in 2010, 2011, 2012 in total?

Answer

At the date of your request, twenty officers who received a criminal conviction in 2010, 2011 and 2012 are still serving. It should be noted that a number of these officers are due to appear before a formal misconduct hearing and therefore the outcome of disciplinary proceedings will determine if these officers remain in the PSNI.

Whilst the PSNI take extremely seriously any wrongdoing by a police officer, the number of cases should be put into context of the number of officers attached to PSNI during the time-frame requested i.e., an average strength of around 8000 officers.

The information supplied has been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

Question 7

Do these Police Officers convicted of crimes come into contact with vulnerable people?

Question 8

What does PSNI consider not to be a serious crime to employ people knowing that they have committed a crime say for instance perjury?

Answer

Please be advised that questions 7 and 8 of your request take the form of questions which seek either a yes/no response or require a member of the Service to express an opinion. As such they do not fulfil Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act as they are not requests for specific recorded information held by the PSNI.

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.psnj.police.uk

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