



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02399

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Security Clearance of Officers and Staff

### 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

How many PSNI officers currently hold security clearance to the level of

- a) Counter Terrorist Check,
- b) Security Check, and
- c) Developed Vetting?

#### Answer

- a) All potential new recruits to PSNI are CTC as part of the recruitment process.
- b) 239 Security Checks processed between 2008 to date.
- c) 934 Developed Vettings processed between 2008 to date.

In relation to (b) and (c) as a result of HM Government's Vetting Transformation Programme the Northern Ireland Security Vetting Unit (NISVU) within the Policing (Operational Support) Division of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) closed in June 2008. This function was transferred to PSNI, Service Vetting Unit after that date. The figures supplied above are for those officers who have been SC or DV since 2008 to date.

#### Question 2

How many PSNI civilian staff currently hold security clearance to the level of

- a) Counter Terrorist Check,
- b) Security Check, and
- c) Developed Vetting?

#### Answer

- a) All potential new police staff members to PSNI are CTC as part of the recruitment process.
- b) 244 Security Checks processed between 2008 to date.
- c) 275 Developed Vettings processed between 2008 to date.

In relation to (b) and (c) as a result of HM Government's Vetting Transformation Programme the Northern Ireland Security Vetting Unit (NISVU) within the Policing (Operational Support) Division of

the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) closed in June 2008. This function was transferred to PSNI, Service Vetting Unit after that date. The figures supplied above are for those police staff who have been SC or DV since 2008 to date.

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.