



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05331

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Full Time Reserve Resignations

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I wish to seek further information in respect of FOI request - F-2013-04907. How many Full -Time Reserve officers resigned from the PSNI between 2001 and 2011 NOT part of either the compulsory or voluntary scheme?

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.

From the 1,029 Full -Time Reserve officers who left PSNI, 340 resigned.

Question 2

How many of these officers went directly into the PSNI as regular officers without a break in service and stayed in the old pension (30 year scheme)?

Answer

269 of the 340 Full -Time Reserve officers who resigned had a cessation reason to join the PSNI as regular officers. Any Full Time Reserve officer who left and rejoined prior to 6 April 2006 would have rejoined the 1988 scheme, as there was no alternative scheme. From 6 April 2006 an officer who left the Reserves and joined the Regulars without a break in service was entitled to remain in the same pension scheme.

Question 3

Did any of these former Full -Time Reserve officers rejoin as regular constables (after a break in service) and if so, how many?

Answer

3 of the 340 Full -Time Reserve officers who resigned, joined the PSNI as regular officers after a break in service.

Question 4

If any officers did have a break in service, did they all have to enter into the new pension (35 year scheme) on rejoining as regulars?

Answer

If an officer left and rejoined prior to 6 April 2006 they would have re-entered the 1988 scheme, as it was the only pension scheme offered. From 2006 onwards if an officer left the 1988 and rejoined after a break in service that officer would enter the 2006 (35 year scheme).

Question 5

In respect of the answer provided for question 5, former regular officers now employed. Would these roles have been advertised internally (within the organisation) or externally (recruiting agency, news papers, etc.)?

Answer

The 42 regular officers who left under the Voluntary Severance Scheme, now employed as permanent staff in the PSNI, were all successful through externally advertised posts. PSNI employed 7 former officers to perform roles within its Specialist Operations Branch. These roles required very specific skills and requirements. The 7 individuals, who possessed these skills had left under the Voluntary Severance Scheme and started as Grafton associates for a short period. After they were in post, it became clear that owing to legislative requirements under the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 they had to be employed directly by the Chief Constable. They were placed on Fixed Term Contracts to comply with this legislative need; hence there was no requirement to advertise internally. Given these were very specific roles demanding a particular skill-set, which could not be found on the open market, it was decided to appoint these Fixed Term Contracts without externally advertising.

Question 6

How many of the permanent staff or indeed those on fixed term contracts (referred to in your initial reply) are based in Headquarters, who retired at or above the rank of Chief Inspector?

Answer

5 staff members based in Headquarters, retired at or above Chief Inspector rank.

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.