



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2013-05158

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Persons Prevented from joining PSNI for having a tattoo

**Request and Answer:**

### Question

How many individuals have been prevented from joining the PSNI on the basis of having a tattoo?

### 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.

There were a total of 22 persons prevented from joining PSNI on the basis of having a tattoo.

### Question

Regarding the possession of a tattoo; Which protocols/policies have been inherited from the RUC? Which protocols/policies have not been inherited from the RUC.

### Answer

There have not been policies inherited from the RUC regarding tattoos.

Vetting policy is continuously evolving in line with national guidelines, best practice and the prevailing security context. It is subject to constant review against these criteria, and therefore the policy has not been inherited from the RUC.

All police recruitment is managed under current legislation Police (Recruitment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 and in accordance with the Police Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 paragraph 2C.

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.