



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-06328

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Assaults on Officers/Staff on duty

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I wonder if you have any update in regard to figures released in this FOI since July 2013.

Out of curiosity, the £6.2 million paid out in compensation over the last five years against 9,803 claims - were most of these claimants police officers?

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.

I have also been advised that in regard to your enquiry above the majority of the claimants are police officers.

Our Legal Services Branch has advised that in your previous request F-2013-02914 the figure quoted £6,289,065 did not include hearing loss claims, please accept our apologies for this oversight and find below the table which includes hearing loss claims:

Year	New Claims	Amount Paid
2008/2009	2,133	5,006,838
2009/2010	2,839	6,521,459
2010/2011	2,223	14,332,270
2011/2012	1,393	20,043,502
2012/2013	1,221	18,435,509
Up to 31/12/2013	0,738	10,377,512
Total	10,547	74,717,090

The Table below is purely slips, trips, falls etc

Year	New Claims	Amount Paid
2008/2009	138	1,134,588
2009/2010	104	543,873
2010/2011	109	1,068,176
2011/2012	145	2,172,652
2012/2013	103	1,369,776
Up to 31/12/2013	60	1,956,220
Total	659	8,245,285

The record holder has again highlighted that there is no correlation between the compensation paid in these months and the number of claims received due to the length of time required to bring such claims to a conclusion.

Question 2

How many reported incidents of assault have there been by police officers and staff whilst on duty between :

01/01/2008 and 21/06/2008?

Up to 31/12/2013

Answer

In response to your earlier request F-2013-02914 we provided for police staff the 'assault' figures which relate to those reports received where the individual has selected that category to describe the category of injury.

For your information I have now supplied the number of police officers who also submitted reports where they selected the category of 'assault' to describe the category of injury. This differs from the larger figures supplied in the response to question 1 in F-2013-02914 because this relates only to when they have submitted a report in regard to injury. For this reason these figures could be used for comparison with police staff as they are extracted from the same database.

We have also provided below the updated figures until the end of year as requested.

Addendum to earlier request

In the last 12 months (01.07.12-30.06.13), Health & Safety (H&S) Branch received 570 accident reports of assault on police officers

In the last 5 years (01.07.08-30.06.13), H&S Branch received 2113 accident reports of assault on police officers.

The figures below are for ALL 'assault' categorised accidents/incidents as reported by individuals using the PSNI accident/incident reporting process, including all injuries, ill health and near-miss incidents.

During the period 01.01.08-21.06.08, H&S Branch received 94 accident reports of assault on police staff; these 94 reports were solely for police officers and no other staff submitted reports.

During the period 01.07.13-31.12.13, H&S Branch received 321 accident reports of assault on police staff broken down as follows - 304 police officers, 1 agency staff, 1 civilian staff & 15 Contractors.

Question 3

How many Incidents have there been whereby a police officer or staff member has been seriously injured on duty? Such as stabbed with a knife, needle, shot or run over between:

Up to 31/12/2013

Answer

The following statistics include categories where the injured party had: a) contact with sharp/needle-sticks, b) exposed to explosions (this could also include fireworks and blast bombs), c) struck by a vehicle. The figures are not simply from the 'assault category' but are from all accidents/incidents where injury has been reported during the period as defined below.

During the period 01.07.13-31.12.13, H&S Branch received 38 accident reports resulting in injury as per the above outlined categories, broken down as follows - 35 police officers, 1 detained person & 2 Contractors.

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.