



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05780

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Legacy Unit of PSNI

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Concerning the Legacy Unit of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. When the Unit was established.

Answer

LSU was established in 2009.

Question 2

The terms of reference of the unit.

Answer

LSU has primary responsibility for all aspects of disclosure of material to HM Coroner in legacy inquests; this is a statutory obligation by virtue of Section 8 of the Coroner's Act (NI) 1959

Question 3

The referrals process to the Unit, including but not exclusively by whom, on what basis or circumstance.

Answer

HM Coroner will request disclosure.

Question 4

The management arrangements of the Unit.

Answer

LSU is a sub branch of PSNI Legal Services Branch which is under the direction of the Head of Legal Services who is a qualified solicitor.

Question 5

All details of existing conflict of interest policy for civilian staff and ex-RUC officers employed and details of risk management policies.

Answer

All LSU staff are required to declare if they have had any operational involvement in each piece of disclosure work to which they are assigned. If a member of LSU staff becomes aware that he/she has/had operational involvement of any kind, as a serving officer, in any piece of disclosure work to which they are assigned he/she will immediately alert the LSU Senior Legal Adviser and a decision will be taken in regard to their continued involvement in that specific case.

Question 6

Details of the relationship between this Unit and the NI Retired Police Officers Association.

Answer

There is no relationship between LSU and NIRPOA with the exception of facilitating two information evenings during the course of a year.

Question 7

Including, are members of NIRPOA employed within the Unit?

Answer

There is no requirement for members employed in LSU to notify membership of the NIRPOA.

Question 8

How the Inquest Information Seminars for NIRPOA were arranged with NIRPOA?

Answer

The meetings are not known as Inquest Information Seminars but Legacy Information Seminars for retired police officers who may or may not be members of the NIRPOA. The seminars are arranged through the offices of the DCC and the conversations are not exclusively in regards to legacy inquests.

Question 9

When were they planned?

Answer

They were first arranged 2012.

Question 10

What information is being distributed? including written and verbal advices.

Answer

There is no written information distributed. The meetings are for a number of purposes including informing NIRPOA about the services available to retired officers by LSU.

Question 11

The number of PSNI hours being dedicated to these seminars and the incurred costs.

Answer

PSNI do not hold recorded information in relation to the number of hours however, we have been advised that the average length of each seminar is 1.5 to 2 hours. The cost incurred totals £1,600 (ex VAT).

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.psnipolice.uk

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