



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04113

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Hearing Loss Compensation Claims

Request and Answer:

Question

Further to FOI request F-2014-03447

You sent me some details of costs, as requested, for a single hearing loss compensation claim. Could I ask for a breakdown of these costs, which is what I really wanted, into the fees paid to the plaintiff's solicitor, plaintiff's counsel's fees and plaintiff's court costs, and the defendant's counsel's fees and court costs. I have previously been given the medical fees so there is no need to provide this again.

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.

Firstly, I wish to apologise for an administrative error in the response to your previous request F-2014-03447. The total legal cost provided by us was £12,474.81. Unfortunately, we accounted for some of the VAT twice and this total is actually incorrect. The revised total is £11,499.15.

The plaintiff's legal costs were £7,188.98 of which the professional fee paid to the plaintiff's solicitor was £2,500 plus VAT. The fee paid to plaintiff's counsel (Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel) was £2,378.32 plus VAT. The plaintiff's court costs were £500 (no VAT payable).

Of the £4,310.17 Defendant's Legal Costs, £1,219.17 (excluding VAT) was Defendant's Counsel fees.

There were no court fees incurred by the Defendant on this particular claim.

NOTE: The information supplied arises from previous requests and has been based, as requested, on a sample claim. It is therefore not representative of all claims. It should be noted that as per information released in F-2013-05627 as at 30th November 2013 the average costs for 8,641 claims concluded up to that date was £7,545.

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.