



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04781

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: PSNI Policy on Tattoos

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know how many individuals have been rejected by the Police Service of Northern Ireland during the past three financial years because of a tattoo? I would like a breakdown of numbers for each year – not just a total figure.

Question 2

Please provide details of the nature and location of the tattoos on applicants who were rejected. If images are available please provide a sample selection – (up to 5)

Answers 1 and 2

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 have been no persons rejected and therefore question 2 is not applicable.

Question 3

For the same period – the last three financial years -- how many recruits with tattoos have been accepted into the PSNI?

Question 4

Please give details of description and location of tattoos on recruits who have been accepted. If photographs are available please supply a sample selection (up to 5).

Answers 3 and 4

PSNI do not hold collate information on potential recruits who have tattoos unless they have been referred to Vetting Panel for a decision.

Question 5

What is the PSNI policy on tattoos and are there any plans to change the policy in the near future?

Clarification Received: Yes, Question 5 refers to recruitment as per the other questions.

Answer 5

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence the policy on tattoos provided to applicants applying to join the PSNI. The information is also available on the website on the PSNI website under the application process and for your convenience I have provided the link below:

<https://www.joinpsni.co.uk/application-process/policies#vetting>

To respond to your request regarding any change to the policy in the future, searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

I have checked with the relevant record owners and they do not have any information regarding any plans to change the policy / guidelines.

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.