



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-03341

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** Monies Paid To Police Federation

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

Purpose and amount of all grants and/or subsidies paid to Police Federation; salaries and other allowances/remuneration etc paid to any member of the Federation broken down by rank and individual amounts. Any other financial subsidies the amount and their purpose for each of the last five years.

#### Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. I have decided to supply the following table below but exempt information in relation to the breaking down of salaries, allowances/remunerations etc paid to any member of the Federation broken down by rank and individual amounts pursuant to the provisions of Section 40 of the FOI Act.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 40 (2) (a) (b) by virtue of Section 40 (3) (a) (i) - Personal Information

The full text of exemptions can be found at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means there is no requirement on the Public Authority to consider whether there is a public interest in disclosure. This is so because personal data is governed by other law (The Data Protection Act 1998). A disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not just to the individual applicant.

Section 40 (3)(a)(i) of FOIA provides an exemption from the right to know where the information requested is personal data and is protected by the Data Protection Act if its disclosure to a member of the public would contravene any of the Data Protection Principles. This particular exemption is absolute which means there is no requirement on the PSNI to consider an additional Public Interest Test.

Taking into account all the circumstances relating to this part your request the PSNI considered whether any of the Data Protection Principles would be breached if this information was to be released. We specifically considered the first data protection principle which requires PSNI to only release information if it is 'fair and lawful' to do so. The information retrieved relates specifically to 4 roles and the information on salary and payments is personal to the individuals concerned. To process this information for any other purpose i.e. by releasing it under Freedom of Information would be unfair to these individuals and therefore a breach of the principle and I am of the opinion that it would not be within their reasonable expectation that PSNI would disclose such information.

Please see the table below which details all grants paid towards running expenses and conferences during the period you have requested.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
2011/12	£3,000	Grant towards Health & Safety Conference 2011
	£67,000	Grant towards Annual Conference (£17,000 for 2010/11 and running expenses of £50,000 for Jan 9 to Dec 9)
2012/13	£67,000	Grant towards Annual Conference (£17,000 for 2011/12 and running expenses of £50,000 for Jan 10 to Dec 10)
2013/14	No Payments Made	
2014/15	£117,000	Grant towards Annual Conference (£17,000 for 2012/13, running expenses of £50,000 for Jan 11 to Dec 11 and £50,000 for Jan 12 to Dec 12)
	£67,000	Re 2013 Grant. Annual Conference and Running Expenses
	£67,000	Re 2014 grant. Annual Conference and running expenses.
2015/16	No Payments	

I have also listed below the total amounts paid for staff costs to officers for the past five years which may be of interest to you.

2015-16 year to date - £188k

2014/15 - £292k

2013/14 - £322k

2012/13 - £244k

2011/12 - £220k

For your information, PSNI recovers 5% of all Pay and Allowances and 95% of Employers National Insurance (ERNI) only on the 5%, for those holding the posts of Chairman and Secretary.

The posts of Assistant Secretary and Treasurer are paid by the PSNI at the relevant rate on the Police pay scale of the consolidated rank of the person holding the post. They also receive a Federation Allowance determined by the Federation which is non-pensionable, this element includes ERNI.

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.