



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05961

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police Officers on Duty on Christmas Day 2014

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please supply me with the number of warranted police officers in your constabulary (excluding special constables and police community support officers) who were rostered on active duty at the beginning of each operational shift during Christmas Day, 25th December 2014.

Question 2

Please supply a separate figure for all shifts that were operational (ie including those spanning 24/25 and 25/26) at any point during that day.

Please only include officers (of any rank) rostered to serve a full shift. Please exclude any officers drafted in from other forces for special events such as football matches.

Question 3

Please also supply the number of putatively rostered warranted officers (excluding special constables and police community support officers) who were absent from duty for any reason during each of these shifts.

(All questions UK locations only)

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 or 18 hours.

Regarding question 3, PSNI has 7 Policing Districts. One District alone has 670 police officers and has estimated it would take 1 minute to examine the records of each of those police officers to establish how many had been rostered to work on Christmas Day 2014 and were subsequently absent. This means it would take one District alone 11 hours and 10 minutes to retrieve the information for question 3 and the remaining time out of the 18 hours allowed under the Act would be insufficient for the other 6 Districts to retrieve the information requested and would exceed the

“appropriate costs limit” under Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information 2000.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the ‘appropriate limit’. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Questions 1 and 2 may be available within the appropriate costs limit.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.