



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02080

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police on Duty in Belfast City District in 2015

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many regular police officers were on duty on the 17th of March 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day i.e. a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 2

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 3

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 4

How many police officers part time were on duty on the 17th of March 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day i.e. a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 5

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 6

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 7

How many regular police officers were on duty on the 4th of May 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day i.e. a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 8

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 9

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 10

How many police officers part time were on duty on the 4th of May 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day i.e. a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 11

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 12

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 13

How many regular police officers were on duty on the 25th of May 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day i.e. a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 14

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 15

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 16

How many police officers part time were on duty on the 25th of May 2015 within the period from the start of the force day to the end of the force day ie a 24 hour period within the Belfast City Policing district?

Question 17

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 18

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 19

How many regular police officers were on duty on the 6th of June 2015 in connection with the Upper Falls Protestant Boys Parade, West Belfast?

Question 20

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 21

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 22

How many police officers part time were on duty on the 6th of June 2015 in connection with the Upper Falls Protestant Boys Parade, West Belfast?

Question 23

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 24

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 25

How many regular police officers were on duty on the 20th of June 2015 in connection with the Tour of the North Parade, Belfast?

Question 26

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 27

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Question 28

How many police officers part time were on duty on the 20th of June 2015 in connection with the Tour of the North Parade, Belfast?

Question 29

What the average number was of hours worked?

Question 30

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to Questions 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 in full;
- fully exempt information in response to Questions 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25 and 28 pursuant to the provisions of Section 31 of the Act.

In relation to questions 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25 and 28 the decision has been taken not to supply the number of officers deployed in relation to specific dates throughout the year and the rationale is outlined below:

Answer

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 31(a) the prevention or detection of crime , (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders 'Law Enforcement'

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

Section 31 is prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in releasing the requested information as well as considering the public interest to ensure that withholding the information is the appropriate response.

Harm Test

Section 31

The disclosure of this information may allow criminals to plan how best to engage or occupy existing police resources within an area and other areas where police officers may have been drafted from in an effort to maximise their chances of committing serious crime. As a Service we have considerable experience of this where organised criminal groups create diversionary calls to divert police resources (e.g. hoax call or deliberately activating intruder alarms) or deliberately create disturbances or commit minor crime (e.g. road traffic offences) with the same aim. While it could also be argued that such criminal activity takes place without the number of officers on duty being known, it is reasonable to assume that a confirmation of the number of officers on duty at a particular time and in a particular area would assist such activity by allowing more accurate judgements to be made by criminals.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure – Section 31

Release of the number of officers on duty on the various dates would lead to a better informed public and would show transparency and accountability on the part of the PSNI.

Factors favouring non-disclosure – Section 31

The release of information concerning police resources at any time, taken on its own or together with other information, either already available or the subject of further requests, could place Police Officers at risk of harm by attack.

Decision

PSNI is tasked with the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the public. At this time of increased threat of terrorism, releasing the number of police officers on duty on the various dates of March 17th, May 4th and May 25th and June 6th and 20th requested into the public domain would not be in the public interest. It is acknowledged that wherever possible policing procedures must be transparent and accountable. However, police need to make balanced judgements which justify why some information needs to remain exempt and unpublished.

Criminal elements could use this information to distract or attack police, therefore compromising the law enforcement role of police and placing police officers at serious risk.

PSNI remains under severe threat from Dissident Republicans and disclosure of this information has the potential to assist those intent on carrying out attacks on police officers. Whilst the PSNI would always wish to be transparent and accountable no release under FOI should be made where lives would be put at risk.

I have determined that the release of the information requested into the public domain would therefore not be in the public interest.

Question 2

What the average number was of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 3

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a full time officer in 2015 is £18.95 and as 17th March was a Public Holiday the cost per hour would therefore be £37.90.

Question 5

What the average number was of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 6

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a Police Officer part time in 2015 is £12.38.

Question 8

What the average number was of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 9

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a full time officer in 2015 is £18.95 and as 4th May was a Public Holiday the cost per hour would therefore be £37.90.

Question 11

What the average number was of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 12

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a Part Time Police Officer in 2015 is £12.38.

Question 14

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average

number of hours worked.

Question 15

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a full time officer in 2015 is £18.95 and as 25th May was a Public Holiday the cost per hour would therefore be £37.90.

Question 17

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 18

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a Part Time Police Officer in 2015 is £12.38.

Question 20

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 21

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a full time officer in 2015 is £18.95.

Question 23

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 24

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a Part Time Police Officer in 2015 is £12.38.

Question 26

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 27

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a full time officer in 2015 is £18.95.

Question 29

What was the average number of hours worked?

Answer

Searches were conducted on the PSNI 'Options' system 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 average number of hours worked.

Question 30

What was the average rate of pay per hour gross?

Answer

The average cost per hour of a Part Time Police Officer in 2015 is £12.38.

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.