



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-02770

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Mental Health

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates.

Request 1

I would be looking for any information regarding the training given to every officer about mental health awareness and about how to cope and realise the symptoms.

Answer

Between September 2016 and September 2019 the Police Federation NI are commissioning resilience ½ day workshops for all police officers on how to manage stress and remain resilient in their work. The Mental Health Services have a Post Incident Support Strategy with a small team of peer support officers who provide post incident peer debriefs following exposure to critical incidents for those officers and staff directly involved in extremely stressful events.

Request 2

I would also be interested in the support available for officers and how an individual would go about informing a member of the force that they may be suffering from any issues.

Answer

The Occupational Health & Welfare (OHW) Unit have a Mental Health Service where any member of the organisation can request a referral via their line manager and will be offered an initial assessment within 10 days. Assessment and clinical evidence based interventions are provided by counsellors and Clinical Psychologists.

Request 3

I would like to focus on, if there are any mental health tests run?

Answer

We are in the process of requesting of the Police Federation Northern Ireland (PFNI) funds to begin a psychological screening programme for all high risk groups regarding mental health indicators. OHW have a large team of Doctors, nurses, counsellors, Psychologists and Physiotherapists for the organisation to access.

Request 4

And if there is an appointed doctor or counsellor for each force?

Answer

OHW have a large team of Doctors, nurses, counsellors, Psychologists and Physiotherapists for the organisation to access.

Request 5

I would like statistics on how many officers in this force have reported issues and if any have been diagnosed while on the force or before joining.

Answer

So far in 2017 there have been 502 referrals to the Mental Health Service. Approximately 20% present with symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Request 6

It would also assist me greatly if I could get some idea of how many relationship issues have arisen in this force and if anyone has required time off due to illness.

Clarification Requested

Regarding 'how many relationship issues have arisen in this force and if anyone has required time off due to illness', do you mean working or personal relationships and is time off due to illness related to the relationship issues?

Clarification Received

I would be referring to divorce and separation statistics if held by this force. This will assist me in examining how shift work affects relationships.

Answer

Human Resources Department has advised this information is not recorded.

Request 7

Finally I would like to know how many officers are in this force so I can use this as a base for my statistical analysis.

Answer

The PSNI currently has 6,500 officers.

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.