



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** f-2018-00079

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Drugs Tests

### Request and 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

The number of police recruits for your force in the 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 (to date)

I define a 'police recruit' as anyone who has applied for a full or part-time role in your force. This includes PCSOs, police staff and other roles besides PCs and other police officer roles. If this data isn't available, please limit it to police officer positions only.

If any of the questions cause problems with data protection I am happy for you to suppress data with values fewer than three, but please provide data where possible.

Please break the answers to all these questions down by financial year.

#### Answer

Please find below the number of applicants that have applied to PSNI:

<u>Police Officer Applicants</u>	<u>Police Staff Applicants</u>
2015/16 = 5498	2015/16 = 3429
2016/17 = 0	2016/17 = 442
2017/18 = 7696	2017/18 = 2231

Please note that PSNI do not have the rank of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO).

#### Request 2

The number of police recruits who failed drugs screening tests before employment in the years specified in question 1.

#### Answer

A total of 3.

**Request 3**

If possible, please give the drug(s) which were found in positive tests.

**Answer**

Cannabis, MDMA and Cocaine.

**Request 4**

For the recruits who failed the drugs tests how many were

a) hired (if any)

**Answer**

As per your direction 'If any of the questions cause problems with data protection I am happy for you to suppress data with values fewer than three, but please provide data where possible', the information held by PSNI is lower value than 3 and therefore is not being provided.

b) charged, cautioned or otherwise dealt with according to police drugs procedures

For 4 b) please provide a breakdown of all outcomes, if there are any.

**Answer**

Dealt with under current PSNI Service Instruction on 'Substance Misuse'.

**Request 5**

For the recruits who failed drugs tests please break down the roles for which they were applying.

**Answer**

ICT Placement Student 2015/16, ICT Apprentice 2015/16 and ICT Placement Student 2017/18.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

