



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01631

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Lower Limb Injuries to PSNI Officers

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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

I hereby respectfully request disclosure under the Freedom Of Information Act 2000 of the numbers of Police Officers within your force who have experienced a lower limb injury either on or off duty over the last 3 years from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018.

This should be sourced from the appropriate Injury on Duty form(s) and/or return to work following sickness forms used in Force.

Request 2

The data required for each instance is as follows:

- Total number of officers this request relates to
- Area of lower limb affected (e.g.: Knee, ankle, Achilles etc)
- Total number & type of incidents (e.g.: Assault, fall, strain, sporting activity etc)
- The length of sickness reported following the injury or medically retired

Answer

The following data relates to the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018.

Total number of officers submitting accident/incident reports (e23/10's): 1,052
Total number of accident/incident reports (e23/10's) submitted: 1,397
Total no. of body part injuries: 2,134

Please note:

- Some officers submitted more than one e23/10 across different incidents; hence the uplift from 1,052 officers to 1,397 actual e23/10's submitted.
- In this same way, it is common for one e23/10 to have multiple body part injuries linked to it i.e. an officer in an RTC suffered a broken right ankle **AND** bruised left leg **AND** abrasion to left knee (3

lower limb injuries to **ONE** person in **ONE** incident) hence a further uplift from 1,397 actual incidents to 2,134 lower limb injuries sustained.

The table below details the total number of incidents broken down into categories as follows:

	Total category incidents	Days lost linked to category
Accidental/negligent discharge	2	181
Assault	412	1072
Contact with needle or other sharps	9	NIL
Ergonomics	128	758
Exposed to an explosion	2	NIL
Exposed to fire	3	NIL
Exposed to, or in contact with, a harmful agent	6	7
Fall from height in meters	25	148
Injured by an animal/ Insect	34	6
Lifting/handling injury (Object)	14	17
Lifting/handling injury (People)	200	209
Other	24	15
Road traffic collision	153	2116
Slip, trip or fall on the same level, or stairs	283	968
Stress	1	NIL
Struck against something (e.g. furniture/fittings etc)	35	67
Struck by moving vehicle	16	201
Struck by Object	50	11
TOTALS	1,397	5,776

Please note: the days lost shown here are those which have been linked by the SAP system to the relevant e23/10.

The table below details the total number of body part injuries from the aforementioned 1,397 e23/10's submitted are broken down into area affected as follows:

	Total body part injuries
Left ankle	98
Left knee	536
Left leg	373
Right ankle	139
Right foot	74
Right knee	545
Right leg	369
TOTAL	2,134

As always, it should be noted that this may not reflect a true overview of all lower limb injuries sustained during the requested time-frame, **ONLY** those that have been reported to Health & Safety Branch via the e23/10 form and selecting the correct fields for body part injury.

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.