



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01549

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Officers Mental Health-related Illnesses

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

This request concerns times taken off by police officers at your force due to mental health-related illnesses.

Please state the total number of calendar days (FTE) taken off by police officer due to stress or anxiety, in each of the following financial years: 2014/2015/2016/2017

Request 2

Please state the proportion of total sickness absences taken off by police officers which were due to stress or anxiety, in each of the following financial years

Request 3

Please state the number of police officers who took long-term sick leave, defined as being on leave for 28 or more calendar days (i.e., 4 working weeks) due to stress or anxiety, in each of the following financial years

Answer

Please find information in the table below in response to the above requests.

Police Officers – illness categorised as Psychological			
Year	Calendar Days sick absence – (psychological*)	% of total calendar days sick (psychological*)	Number of police officers who availed of Long Term Absence** (psychological*)
2014/15	41232	26.07%	322
2015/16	43728	29.90%	366
2016/17	39207	29.73%	333

2017/18	43826	29.85%	385
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Please note: *Category - Psychological includes all stress related absence

** Long Term absence >28 calendar days

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.