



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00011

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Pensions

Request and Answer:

Request 1

How many people are in receipt of a Police Service of Northern Ireland Police Officer pension?

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.

A total of 12,247 pensioners are currently being paid.

Request 2

If a Police officer at the rank of Constable with 25 years' service is temporarily promoted to Sergeant for one year within the last three years then how much additional cost would this generate?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act requires PSNI to provide a response to a request for 'recorded' information which is held (s.1 FOIA). A question will not necessarily constitute a 'valid request'. Further information on what constitutes a valid request can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1164/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf>

The FOI Act therefore does not require PSNI to speculate or provide a response to questions which are not seeking recorded information. In this case PSNI does not hold information based on the speculative scenario of your question that may or may not exist.

Under Section 16 (duty to assist) this could create an additional pension of £350 per annum.

Request 3

What process is followed when temporarily promoting officers in this manner and what department holds accountability for this?

Answer

Accountability for decisions made and selection methods employed for temporary promotions sits with the Authorising District Commander/Head of Branch for Federated ranks and with the Senior Management Appointment Panel (SMAP) for Superintending ranks.

Human Resources Reward Policy Branch are the authors of the policy on Acting Up (Temporary Salary) and Temporary Promotion.

Request 4

What process does the Police Service of Northern Ireland employ to decide if a post is needed and at what rank?

Answer

The Head of Branch/Department determines if there is a requirement for a police post(s) in their respective area. An assessment of this need is then conducted by the Priority Based Resourcing (PBR) Programme Board before a final decision is made by the Chair of the PBR Board.

Temporary promotion guidance which is provided to Police Officers is accessible to yourself on the internal system Police net.

Request 5

What is the annual difference between pension payment receipts and outgoings in the Police Service of Northern Ireland?

Answer

The current deficit in Police pensions is £136m.

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.