



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01688

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** PSNI Officers in Co. Antrim

**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.

Clarification received: This is all regarding L District. Also yes, the number of officers in NPT and LPT.

**Request 1**

How many PSNI officers, of all ranks, work in Co. Antrim?

**Answer**

Please see the table below detailing number of officers by rank.

Officers by Rank Antrim & Newtownabbey - L District at 14 Nov 2018	
Chief Inspector	2
Inspector	8
Sergeant	22
Constable	153

**Request 2**

What is the process in which an officer is put into either Roads Policing or Operational Policing? (How is it decided? Are they trained differently at any point? Can either respond to 999 calls?).

**Answer**

Normally officers are appointed into Roads Policing having been found successful in a centrally run selection process were their position on the merit list matches the number of vacancies. Normally officers are appointed to NPT having been found successful in a locally run selection process were their position on the merit list matches the number of vacancies.

Usually officers are allocated to LPT once they have completed their student officer training. Officers

can also be transferred into LPT following submission of a transfer form and there being vacancies in the district they have requested.

Road Policing Officers are required to pass an Advanced Driving Test as a condition of their appointment. In addition they will undertake training in some or all of the following: Tactical Pursuits, Speed Enforcement devices, in-car camera systems, Evidential Breath Testing, Tachographs, carriage of Hazardous Goods, mechanical examination of vehicles (AO Officer) and enhanced collision investigation. This list is not exhaustive but represents the bulk of the additional training. RPU Officers in common with all uniformed Officers are able to respond to 999 calls.

### Request 3

Across Co. Antrim (or the entire country), what is the proportion of officers in Roads Policing vs Operational Policing?

### Answer

Please see table below:

Road Policing -v- Local Policing & Neighbourhood Policing at 14 Nov 2018	
Road Policing	166
Local Policing	2290
Neighbourhood Policing	315
% of Road Policing	6.37%

### Request 4

How many officers work in Newtownabbey?

### Answer

Please see table below:

Officers in Antrim/Newtownabbey at 14 Nov 2018	
Antrim	89
Newtownabbey	96

**Please note:** these figures are for LPT officers in L District. There would be other officers on duty within the district, i.e. CIB and Roads Policing.

### Request 5

At any given time, how many police officers would be on duty in Newtownabbey?

### Answer

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislates for the rights of an individual to seek access to *recorded information*. The Act only extends to requests for recorded information as defined by Section 84 of the Act and does **not** require public authorities to speculate, answer questions or create information to answer an FOI request.

Based on the information you have provided, searches were conducted by Human Resources (HR) and the District however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request. HR has confirmed that the number of officers on duty varies based on time of day, time of year and if there is a special event on. Policing in Newtownabbey and Antrim district is delivered by officers in local policing teams who work 24/7 but they are supported by officers in critical neighbourhood teams and district support teams when necessary. The commander can also call

upon specialist resources for specific tasks such as Tactical support groups for searches and public order scenarios and roads policing for traffic issues. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

### **Request 6**

How do PSNI officers communicate to each other through their radio? (E.g. Any special jargon? Is there a website which contains this information). I am basically inquiring is the amount of PSNI officers in Co. Antrim, the amount of PSNI officers working in Newtownabbey and the difference in numbers and possible training between Roads Policing & Operational Policing?

### **Answer**

Officers communicate through a secure airwave radio system. Radios are personally issued to officers but there are also radios in vehicles and stations. There is no specific jargon but letters for vehicle registrations marks for vehicles etc. are communicated using the phonetic alphabet which can be sourced via the internet.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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