



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-03017

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Vetting of 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Have all officers and staff who joined prior to the adoption of the national vetting policy in 2006 now been retrospectively vetted?

Answer

No, however I can advise that this is currently ongoing.

Request 1 A

If the answer is no, please state the number who have not been retrospectively vetted.

Answer

There are a total of 2029 officers who joined the PSNI prior to 2006 who have not been retrospectively vetted. However the current plan is to have all these officers vetted in the next three years.

Request 2

How many officers and staff have currently not been re-vetted – at a clearance level of RV – after ten years' service?

Answer

At present PSNI are obliged to comply with current Police (Recruitment Regulations) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 and Police Service of Northern Ireland (Recruitment of Police Support Staff) Regulations 2002 in respect of police officer and police staff recruitment.

The current PSNI Service instructions and associated vetting guidance aligns with the Vetting Code of Practice and APP. The Code of Practice is supported by the Authorised Professional Practice for Vetting and recommends three levels of vetting: Recruit vetting, management vetting and non-police personnel vetting. There are however differences in the PSNI process in respect of recruit vetting due to the NI Legislation for police officer and police staff recruitment.

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.