



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00155

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: C7 Public Protection Branch

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates.

Request 1

Can you confirm the existence of a department within the PSNI called C7?

Answer

C7 is the numerical designation for the PSNI's Public Protection Branch.

Request 2

When was it established?

Answer

On 1st April 2015, the Public Protection Branch was formed as part of Crime Operations Department.

Request 3

Does it still exist and, if not, when did it cease to function?

Answer

Public Protection Branch still exists.

Request 4

What was its remit and purpose?

Answer

Now under the central leadership of Detective Chief Superintendent Paula Hilman, the Public Protection Units, Rape Crime Unit and the Child Internet Protection Team were brought together into a single branch. Public Protection Branch now has overall responsibility for operational activity as well as policy and practice in relation to domestic abuse, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, sex and violent offender management, adult safeguarding, rape, child abuse imagery, e-safety and all associated control strategies.

Public Protection Branch are also responsible for education and safeguarding within these areas and

work closely with several partner agencies, including the Health Trusts, Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, other statutory organisations and charities such as Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project, Rainbow, NSPCC, Nexus and others. Every Day Public Protection Branch is working with those agencies, organisations and charities to support and protect the vulnerable and build confidence in policing. On an almost daily basis, there are media headlines about domestic and sexual abuse, internet safety and the risks posed by those accessing images of child abuse, child abuse and child sexual exploitation. Officers within Public Protection Branch are committed to ensuring we detect those committing these crimes and bring them before the court.

Request 5

How many officers were in C7 at any given time and what were their ranks?

Answer

At the date of your request, the Public Protection Branch has an established strength of 308.5 officers, ranks ranging from Detective Chief Superintendent to Detective Constable rank.

Request 6

How many officers received a promotion upon joining C7 from a previous role?

Answer

From 1st April 2015 to the date of your request, 43 officers were promoted from a previous role into C7 Public Protection Branch.

Request 7

How many of those promotions involved stepping up more than a single rank?

Answer

PSNI officers are not promoted more than a single rank.

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.

