



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01225

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Charity Donation

Request and Answer:

Request

A tweet is in circulation stating that "At the start of every PSNI recruit intake they each choose a charity to support and at the end choose one drawn out of a hat and present cheque /funds to that charity. The latest course 817 chose H4H only hierarchy did not like that and asked that the choice be reconsidered but it was refused. Disgruntled hierarchy then agreed but no one from H4H was allowed to be publicly presented with the funds. "

Please can you confirm the veracity of this matter and if true explain the rationale behind any objections and not allowing a registered charity to be presented with the funds?

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 answer questions which are not valid requests, speculate or create information to answer an FOI request.

Based on the information you have provided, searches were conducted by the Police College and PSNI does not hold information relevant to your request.

PSNI can confirm that student officers do raise money for charity. As with all such matters in the PSNI this is with the guidance and support of management in line with strategic organisational principles, policing values and service policies.

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>

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.