



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02624

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Police Officer Drivers

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

Please provide the total number of police officers (regulars and Special Constables) who are required to drive response vehicles when needed.

Answer

The PSNI have a total of 5867 officers who can drive 'Standard Response' vehicles.

It should be noted that not all of these officers are attached to response sections, but are trained to the standard category that is required to drive a police vehicle.

The PSNI also has a total of 667 officers who are trained to drive high performance vehicles attached to specialist units.

Request 2

Out of the officers referenced in question 1, please provide the total number who are required to drive response vehicles when needed, but who are not authorised to respond to emergencies with blue lights.

Answer

The PSNI does not use the basic driver grading/category you are referring to in this request, almost all PSNI response vehicles sit in the higher performance category than that of a the basic fleet vehicle thus meaning a decision was made to have all officers trained to standard level.

Request 3

Please provide the total number of police officers (regulars and Special Constables) who were required to drive response vehicles when needed as of 31 March 2013.

Answer

As stated all PSNI vehicles are standard response vehicles and therefore at any point the figure in question one could be relevant.

Please note that PSNI does not have the rank of Special Police Constable.

Request 4

Out of the officers referenced in question 3, please provide the total number who were required to drive response vehicles when needed, but who were not authorised to respond to emergencies with blue lights as of 31 March 2013.

Answer

This request is not applicable.

All PSNI Standard response drivers are authorised to use emergency equipment if required and that would be every officer in the total number provided in request 1.

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.