



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01365

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Rape Crisis Unit

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

Could I please have a copy of the risk assessment for those persons who work in the Rape Crisis Unit both civilian and police.

Answer

Enquiries made with Public Protection Branch, PSNI failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. There is no specific Risk Assessment for RCU (Rape Crime Unit), however there is a generic risk assessment across the service for general policing duties. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 2

The RCU is a very difficult environment to work in with distressing stories and I would like to know what, if any support is given to for example typists who transcribe tape recorded interviews and officers who conduct investigations into cases.

Answer

There is ongoing support from a wellbeing perspective in terms of resilience and bespoke wellbeing training as well as the specialist services provided by Occupational Health as required. Please note this is in respect of the entire Unit. Well-being and welfare support is also available via various mechanisms including the 'Inspire' Initiative via Police Federation of Northern Ireland combined with bespoke welfare and well-being programme within Public Protection Branch.

Request 3

Is there a policy to support individuals in this department to ensure staff are monitored and given access to OHW.

Answer

The Service Absence Management Policy is the procedure followed within Public Protection Branch, which involves case conferencing and OHW referral support. There are regular absence

management panels to review individual circumstances.

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.psnj.police.uk

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