



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-00438

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Policing Board Inability To Hold PSNI To Account

### Request and Answer:

Following the Assembly Election on 2 March 2017, political members to the Policing Board have not been nominated and as a result, the Policing Board is not legally constituted and cannot exercise its statutory duties to hold PSNI to account.

Can PSNI therefore appraise me of the following:

#### Request 1

How can the public be assured that the PSNI be held to account during current political impasse and please outline provisions for same- (I have contacted Policing Board re some serious concerns about a contract issue and have been advised that they do not have the statutory powers to investigate these)

#### Answer

The Policing Board has a range of important statutory functions in order to deliver accountability and effective oversight. These responsibilities are fully outlined on the NIPB website at

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/oversight-psni>

To assist the Policing Board in their statutory role the Chief Constable, despite the absence of a fully constituted Policing Board, continues to regularly meet with, and provide information to, the Chair. This includes:-

- Monthly meetings between the Chief Constable and the Chair
- Regular formal Board reports on Finance, HR, operational issues, etc.
- Facilitation of Board members at various visits across the Police Service
- Participation in the Board's public seminar series on various policing themes
- Continued correspondence with the Board in answer to all issues raised by them

#### Request 2

How many complaints are PSNI aware of which have been reported to Policing Board yet the Board are unable to assist with? Due to the political situation at present?

#### Answer

The PSNI would not hold any information in regards to complaints reported to the Policing Board.

### **Request 3**

Please tell me what complaints have been received by Policing Board in respect of PSNI and please confirm if they have been fully investigated and if so by whom/ what department?

### **Answer**

The PSNI would not be aware of complaints received by the Policing Board.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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