

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-00320

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** Current Police Officer Recruitment Process

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

I understand that the current Police Officer Recruitment process has been suspended until May 2021 at the earliest. What is the reason for the suspension of the current recruitment process?

#### Answer

The remaining assessment centres for the 2020 recruitment campaign have been paused due to the Cov-19 restrictions and associated medical circumstances. The timing for resuming assessment will be in line with government guidance. In the interim, the Police Service of Northern Ireland continues to process high performing candidates from this campaign through the pre-employment stages of the process.

#### Request 2

Does the suspension of the current recruitment process have anything to do with the Chief Constable publicly stating that due to a substantial budget deficit that he is looking at losing up to 300 officers this year?

#### Answer

No, the decision to pause the remaining assessment centres was based on the Cov-19 restrictions and associated medical 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.