

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00617

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Officers & Staff Sickness

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.

Clarification sought from requester

The PSNI reports on sick absence are held as financial years and as not calendar years and due to the complexity of the recording system to supply the data in calendar years would involve a considerable amount of integration and this is estimated to take in excess of 18 hours.

Accordingly the information can be supplied readily from 2015/16 through to 2019/20 financial years, therefore under S16 duty to assist can you please confirm if you would accept the information in financial years?

Clarification received from requester

I am happy to receive the information as you have suggested.

Request 1

Over the last 5 years (Jan 2016 - Dec 2020) how many police officers have been off from work on the sick, for 7 days or less? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Request 2

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020) how many police officers have been off from work on the sick, for up to 28 days? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Request 3

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020) how many police officers have been off from work on the sick, for longer than 28 days? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Answer

The following table will provide breakdown answers to request numbers 1-3

Police Officer Sick Absence Data			
Year	1 - 7 Days	8 - 28 days	>28 days
2015/16	1,580	887	1,346
2016/17	1,599	825	1,241
2017/18	1,799	1,004	1,360
2018/19	1,637	860	1,398
2019/20	1,873	1,048	1,274

Request 4

How many long term sick officers does your force currently have?

Answer

212 Police Officers on long term sick absence (as at 28 Feb 21).

Request 5

How many officers are currently on restricted duties?

Answer

903 Police Officers have a Duty Adjustment (as at 28 Feb 21).

Request 6

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020) how many police staff have been off from work on the sick, for 7 days or less? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Request 7

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020) how many police staff have been off from work on the sick, for up to 28 days? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Request 8

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020) how many police staff have been off from work on the sick, for longer than 28 days? (Please can the data be broken down for each year separately)

Answer

The following table will provide breakdown answers to request numbers 6 -8

Police Staff Sick Absence Data			
Year	1 - 7 Days	8 - 28 days	>28 days
2015/16	719	291	400
2016/17	710	254	346
2017/18	877	352	370
2018/19	852	322	415
2019/20	1,001	364	375

Request 9

How many long term sick police staff does your force currently have?

Answer

62 Police Staff on long term sick absence (as at 28 Feb 21).

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.

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.psnipolice.uk

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