

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-00889

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** FOI Responses and Internal Reviews in 2018

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose this information to you.

### Request 1

How many Freedom of Information Request responses provided by the PSNI in 2018 denied access to information held by PSNI on grounds other than cost and were followed by a request for an internal review of the decision to deny the release of the information?

### Answer

In 2018, PSNI Corporate Information Branch received a total of 17 requests to independently conduct 'internal reviews' for FOIA responses provided. This total excludes refusal notices citing Section 12 on cost grounds.

### Request 2

How many of the internal review decisions overturned the decision not to disclose information (other than on grounds of cost) made by the PSNI?

### Answer

From the total of 17 requests, one response was subsequently 'overturned', at the PSNI's internal review stage.

In a refusal notice issued on any grounds, PSNI will always try where possible to provide advice and assistance to a requestor where we can. This is in compliance with section 16 of the FOIA and will be documented in the refusal notice. All internal reviews are carried out in compliance with Part 5 of the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the FOIA and learning from these disseminated throughout the Corporate Information Branch. This Code of Practice can be downloaded from the Information Commissioner's Office website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-guidance/section-45-code-of-practice-request-handling/>

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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