

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-01118

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Royal Ulster Constabulary Height Restrictions

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

What were the height restrictions within the Royal Ulster Constabulary?

Answer

According to the last RUC Code held by the Police Museum dated May 1986, the minimum height requirements were as follows (under Regulation 10 The Royal Ulster Constabulary (Amendment) Regulations 1984:

Men 172 cm
Women 162 cm

Please note the RUC Code states 'unless the Chief Constable with the approval of the Police Authority decides otherwise'.

The RUC Code contains a nota bene which states 'The Chief Constable using his discretion has increased the minimum height standard for female candidates to 168 cm'.

The Police Museum also holds an RUC recruitment pack dated 1994 in which the minimum height standard is given as men 172 cm and women 162 cm as recorded above.

Request 2

When were the height restrictions abolished?

Answer

Height restrictions were abolished under the Police (NI) Act 2000 and the Police Museum holds a copy of the Police (Recruitment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 (operational from 5th April 2001) in which there is no reference to height requirements for entry.

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.