



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-01168

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** LIB Establishment

### 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.

#### Request 1

When was the Research, Engagement and Strategic Support team established?

#### Answer

January 2018

#### Request 2

What are the Terms of Reference of the Research, Engagement and Strategic Support team?

#### Answer

- LIB was established in January 2015 following the cessation of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) in December 2014.
- It has responsibility for terrorist & non-terrorist homicides that occurred between 01 January 1969 and 01 March 2004.
- LIB remit is to review those cases within this time period that were not concluded by the HET and to conduct investigations into cases which present evidential opportunities.
- The REDS team are responsible for the research & development of enquiries that sit outside the parameters of either LIB review or investigation teams.
- This includes cases that are not part of LIB's current caseload.
- To attempt to answer straightforward and specific questions posed, they will carry out cursory research & development of material that is readily available.
- They do not conduct a full review of an investigation or reinvestigate HET completed cases.
- They are bound by statutory obligations regarding material & information held in respect of any investigation.
- Such material & information cannot be disclosed to the public, except as required by an ongoing legal process or Production Order.

#### Request 3

How many personnel are within the Research, Engagement and Strategic Support team?

**Answer**

There are 7 personnel within the Research, Engagement and Strategic Support team.

**Request 4**

How many of these personnel have been deployed from PSNI/RUC, other UK police forces, the MOD or other agencies?

**Answer**

None

**Request 5**

How many personnel have security clearance?

**Answer**

All personnel are cleared to the appropriate level with regards their remit.

**Request 6**

What is the relationship between the Research, Engagement and Strategic Support and the MOD?

**Answer**

The MOD is one of many partner agencies of the PSNI.

For more information on Legacy Investigation Branch please follow this link:-

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/our-departments/legacy-and-legal-department/legacy-investigation-branch/>

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.