

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01202

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Playing of National Anthem

Request and Answer:

You have sought the following information from PSNI under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FOIA'):

"I request details of all notes, minutes, records, emails, decision logs, actions and any record how so ever held in respect of the decision not to play the National Anthem of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at events for the presentation of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal"

Answer

Whilst we apologise for the delay in responding to you, PSNI can confirm it has made extensive searches for the information you seek. Whilst we hold information on the relocation and presentation of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal ceremonies commencing in the Spring of 2019 to locations outside of the PSNI estate, we do not hold any information in regard to an organisational decision not to play the National Anthem of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at these ceremonies. The ceremonies were relocated to civic venues and reformatted, running at times aimed at encouraging and facilitating wider participation, taking into account the needs of those families of recipients attending, including young people and school children.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate 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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request; you may make a complaint to the Information

Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.