

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01253

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Project Query

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

How do the PSNI run the PC – DC lateral development program (i.e. are all officers invited to progress this way after probation, or is there a criteria to be met before accepting an application to become a detective)?

Answer

Constables who have successfully completed their probation are required to fulfil a minimum 12 month commitment period as a substantive Constable in their allocated District before being eligible to apply for any selection competition.

Request 2

Complaints – if an officer is subject to a complaint that is likely to become protracted, how often would that officer expect to be kept updated as to the progression of the complaint?

Answer

There is no specific requirement for an officer subject to misconduct investigation to be updated on the progress of the investigation, however Professional Standards investigators will regularly update officers on progress, as is appropriate to the particular investigation. Upon submission of the investigating officer's report to the Appropriate Authority, the officer concerned will be notified if a determination has not been made within 15 working days of submission, providing the reason for delay, in accordance with Regulation 21(8) of the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Request 3

Does the PSNI offer open days to specialist departments to give an insight as to what the specialist department entails. For example a 1 day attachment to promote interest / recruitment?

Answer

When a selection process is advertised for a specialist department, information days are arranged to provide prospective applicants with more information regarding the role that they are applying for.

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 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.psni.police.uk

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