

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01674

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Officer and Staff Absences During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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 many Police Officers reported absent as a result of contracting COVID-19 OFF Duty?

Request 2

How many Police Officers reported absent as a result of contracting COVID-19 ON Duty?

Answer to Request 1 and 2

These were not separately recorded, because the source of infection is often unknown and unable to be determined.

Request 3

In TOTAL, both OFF and ON duty, how many Police Officers reported absent due to contracting COVID -19?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 1831 Police Officers have reported absent with the following Reasons Covid – 19 Confirmed, Covid – 19 Symptomatic, Ongoing Symptomatic or Post Covid 19.

Request 4

How many Police Officers reported absent as a result of having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone OFF duty who contracted COVID-19?

Request 5

How many Police Officers reported absent as a result of having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone ON duty who contracted COVID-19?

Answer to Request 4 and 5

These were not separately recorded, because the source of infection is often unknown and unable to

be determined.

Request 6

In TOTAL, how many Police Officers reported absent due to having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone ON or OFF duty who contracted COVID-19?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 5540 Police Officers have reported absent and were Self Isolating due to either Close Contact or through Contact Tracing.

Request 7

How many Police officers were absent due to having to shield from the risk of contracting COVID-19 in the workplace?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 132 Police Officers have reported absent and were Shielding.

Request 8

Of those Police Officers absent due to self-isolation or shielding how many were able to conduct meaningful work from home?

Answer

Shielding – remote working provision has enabled officers / staff to conduct their duties remotely, role dependent, however a figure is not captured.

Self-isolation remote working provision is role dependent, however a figure is not captured.

Request 9

How many Police Staff reported absent as a result of contracting COVID-19 OFF Duty?

Request 10

How many Police Staff reported absent as a result of contracting COVID-19 ON Duty?

Answer to Request 9 and 10

These were not separately recorded, because the source of infection is often unknown and unable to be determined.

Request 11

In TOTAL, both OFF and ON duty, how many Police Staff reported absent due to contracting COVID-19?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 371 Police Staff have reported absent with the following Reasons Covid – 19 Confirmed, Covid – 19 Symptomatic, Ongoing Symptomatic or Post Covid 19.

Request 12

How many Police Staff reported absent as a result of having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone OFF duty who contracted COVID-19?

Request 13

How many Police Staff reported absent as a result of having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone ON duty who contracted COVID-19?

Answer to Request 12 and 13

These were not separately recorded, because the source of infection is often unknown and unable to

be determined.

Request 14

In TOTAL, how many Police Staff reported absent due to having to self-isolate after being in contact with someone ON or OFF duty who contracted COVID-19?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 682 Police Staff have reported absent and were Self Isolating due to either Close Contact or through Contact Tracing.

Request 15

How many Police Staff were absent due to having to shield from risk of contracting COVID-19 in the workplace?

Answer

From 01/03/2020 to 29/12/2021, a total of 113 Police Staff have reported absent and were Shielding.

Request 16

Of those Police Staff absent due to self-isolation or shielding how many were able to conduct meaningful work from home.

Answer

Shielding – remote working provision has enabled officers / staff to conduct their duties remotely, role dependent, however a figure is not captured.

Self-isolation remote working provision is role dependent, however a figure is not captured.

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.psn.police.uk

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