

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02432

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Police Officers Working in Schools

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 some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. However, we do not hold information in relation to Request 1 & Request 2.

Request 1

How many police officers in your force were working in schools as of 1st January in the following years? This could be a named officer, a liaison officer either working in or responsible for a school:

- a. 2016
- b. 2017
- c. 2018
- d. 2019
- e. 2020 to date

Request 2

How many complaints were received by your police force about school based police officers identified in the answer to question 1 in each of the years (please also describe the nature of the complaint):

- a. 2016
- b. 2017
- c. 2018
- d. 2019
- e. 2020 to date

Answer

Enquiries made in relation to Request 1 and 2 have failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. PSNI do not have police officers dedicated to schools who work solely or even mainly with schools.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

Request 3

Can you explain your force's interaction with school-aged children and or college/sixth form

students? If any, what interactions do your officers undertake in places of education?

Answer

Local Policing Team and Neighbourhood Policing Team officers engage with schools in their areas, delivering lessons and engaging with young people based on bespoke local needs.

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.psni.police.uk

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