

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02660

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Vetting Procedures

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

Could you please provide me with your force's vetting policy or any guidance on your vetting processes other than the APP on Vetting issued by the College of Policing?

Answer

Please see attached PSNI Vetting Service Instruction and recruitment guidance.

Request 2

Whether or not a specific vetting policy document exists, could you confirm what the minimum checks required are for Recruitment Vetting for police personnel?

Answer

The minimum checks required for recruitment vetting are as follows:

- Criminal Record (CRV)
- Niche occurrences/intelligence
- PND and PNC
- International/AGS Checks (If applicable)
- Spec Ops (if applicable)
- Previous discipline (if applicable)
- Financial checks
- Social media checks
- Review of Tattoos
- National Security vetting

Request 3

Could you also confirm whether, as a matter of course, your RV procedures for police personnel currently include checks on social media content?

Answer

As per the response to question 2, social media checks are carried out on all recruit vetting applications for police officers and police staff.

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.psnipolice.uk

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