

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00243

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Body Cam Cameras

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

Please advise how many police officers there are on active duty (including those in cars) and how many of these officers wear body cam cameras?

Clarification from Requester

I believe there may be a lot of work in answering this question for all of NI. I really only need to know for the Belfast area. Can you amend my question to "how many officers serve in Belfast area and how many of these have body cam cameras"?

Answer

As of 4th March 2020 There are currently a total of 958 Police Officers (Regular and Part Time Reserve), serving in Belfast.

None of these officers has a 'Body Worn Video', (BWV) as a BWV is not issued to an individual officer as part of their equipment / uniform.

However they are available to officers centrally and they can book out a BWV at the start of their duty period and at the end of period of duty, the officer returns it to a docking station. In addition a BWV is **only** issued to officers who have been trained in the use of BWV and an officer will comply with the system operational procedures, and training instructions

To assist with your request a search was carried out by the PSNI Record Owner of the total number of officers in Belfast and there are a total of 892 officers serving Belfast, whose records indicate that the officer has completed/attended the relevant course required to use a 'Body Worn Video Camera'.

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.