

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00951

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Driving Policy

Request and Answer:

Request 1

I would like to be provided a copy of your Driving Policy; most specifically in relation to 'Response Driving', 'Use of Unmarked Cars' and 'Use of the Police and/or Volunteer D1 exemption'?

Request 2

Additionally this request is for information on the 'Medical requirements' for each driving category; most specifically in relation to 'Eyesight/Vision'.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and PSNI are not obliged to supply the information you have requested as this information is published on the PSNI website.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme.

To access our Publication Scheme and the Service Instruction 'Corporate Policy 'Driving of Police Vehicles', which sets out the arrangements for Police and Police Staff driver training, testing, classification, authorisation, appointment and removal, for assistance it can accessed using the

following link to our website :

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/our-publications/policies-and-service-procedures/driving-of-police-vehicles-130320.pdf>

Please note the following :

The derogation applied by the Driver and Vehicle Agency N Ireland (DVA) in respect of what you the requestor refer to in Request 1, as “use of the Police and/or Volunteer D1 exemption”, **is not applicable to a police officer on duty**, as he/she will be receiving payment, consequently this provision is not referenced within our internal instructions.

The Medical requirements including eyesight testing for police drivers are based on the Group 2 Medical standards as set out by (DVA).

The PSNI requires authorised police drivers to meet stipulated eye sight standards which exceed the civilian standard as imposed by DVA.

If you have any queries regarding your request please write or contact the Corporate Information Branch on 028 9070 0164. Please remember to quote the reference number listed above in any future communications with the Freedom of Information Team.

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.