



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01768

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Police Officer Career Breaks

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

I am requesting information in relation to police officers returning from career breaks. The information I would like is as follows:

How many police officers have availed of a career break in the last 15 years?

Answer

A total of 171 officers.

Request 2

What length of career break did they take?

Answer

Please see the table below which provides the length of the career break as of 30th September 2020.

Length of Career Break as at 30/09/2020	Number of Length of Career Break as at 30/09/2020
0 years 1 months 2 days	1
0 years 1 months 29 days	1
0 years 1 months 9 days	1
0 years 10 months 20 days	1
0 years 10 months 4 days	1
0 years 10 months 7 days	1
0 years 11 months 25 days	1
0 years 11 months 27 days	1
0 years 11 months 29 days	2
0 years 11 months 30 days	7
0 years 2 months 16 days	1

0 years 2 months 22 days	1
0 years 2 months 29 days	1
0 years 3 months 29 days	1
0 years 3 months 6 days	1
0 years 4 months 0 days	1
0 years 5 months 0 days	1
0 years 5 months 21 days	1
0 years 5 months 27 days	1
0 years 6 months 0 days	1
0 years 6 months 14 days	1
0 years 6 months 28 days	1
0 years 6 months 29 days	1
0 years 7 months 28 days	1
0 years 8 months 11 days	2
0 years 8 months 17 days	1
0 years 8 months 22 days	1
0 years 8 months 29 days	1
0 years 8 months 30 days	1
0 years 8 months 8 days	1
0 years 9 months 13 days	1
0 years 9 months 28 days	1
0 years 9 months 29 days	1
1 years 0 months 0 days	3
1 years 0 months 1 days	1
1 years 0 months 11 days	1
1 years 0 months 27 days	1
1 years 0 months 29 days	1
1 years 1 months 19 days	1
1 years 1 months 29 days	1
1 years 10 months 29 days	1
1 years 10 months 30 days	1
1 years 10 months 7 days	1
1 years 11 months 0 days	1
1 years 11 months 29 days	5
1 years 11 months 30 days	4
1 years 11 months 5 days	1
1 years 2 months 16 days	1
1 years 2 months 19 days	1
1 years 2 months 29 days	1
1 years 3 months 18 days	1
1 years 3 months 27 days	1
1 years 3 months 29 days	2
1 years 4 months 15 days	1
1 years 4 months 29 days	1
1 years 4 months 3 days	1
1 years 5 months 28 days	1
1 years 5 months 29 days	3
1 years 5 months 30 days	1
1 years 6 months 26 days	1
1 years 6 months 29 days	1
1 years 6 months 5 days	2
1 years 7 months 0 days	1

1 years 7 months 9 days	1
1 years 8 months 12 days	1
1 years 8 months 13 days	2
1 years 9 months 10 days	1
1 years 9 months 24 days	1
1 years 9 months 30 days	1
1 years 9 months 6 days	1
2 years 0 months 0 days	2
2 years 0 months 29 days	2
2 years 0 months 6 days	1
2 years 1 months 0 days	1
2 years 1 months 29 days	2
2 years 1 months 3 days	1
2 years 10 months 9 days	1
2 years 11 months 27 days	1
2 years 11 months 29 days	2
2 years 11 months 30 days	1
2 years 3 months 19 days	1
2 years 4 months 22 days	1
2 years 5 months 11 days	1
2 years 5 months 29 days	2
2 years 5 months 9 days	1
2 years 6 months 25 days	1
2 years 6 months 29 days	2
2 years 6 months 30 days	1
2 years 7 months 11 days	1
2 years 7 months 3 days	1
2 years 8 months 10 days	1
2 years 8 months 28 days	1
3 years 0 months 0 days	1
3 years 0 months 1 days	1
3 years 0 months 10 days	1
3 years 0 months 13 days	1
3 years 0 months 29 days	2
3 years 0 months 5 days	1
3 years 11 months 29 days	1
3 years 11 months 30 days	2
3 years 11 months 4 days	1
3 years 2 months 12 days	1
3 years 2 months 29 days	1
3 years 2 months 30 days	1
3 years 3 months 12 days	1
3 years 6 months 29 days	1
3 years 7 months 11 days	1
3 years 8 months 0 days	1
3 years 9 months 24 days	1
4 years 0 months 24 days	1
4 years 0 months 29 days	1
4 years 0 months 8 days	1
4 years 1 months 30 days	1
4 years 11 months 29 days	3
4 years 11 months 30 days	5

4 years 2 months 0 days	1
4 years 5 months 26 days	1
4 years 7 months 23 days	1
4 years 8 months 13 days	1
4 years 8 months 14 days	1
4 years 8 months 28 days	1
4 years 8 months 29 days	1
4 years 8 months 5 days	1
4 years 9 months 23 days	1
5 years 0 months 0 days	4
5 years 0 months 1 days	1
5 years 0 months 17 days	1
5 years 10 months 14 days	1
5 years 3 months 18 days	1
5 years 4 months 12 days	1
5 years 5 months 13 days	1
5 years 8 months 2 days	1
Grand Total	171

Please note the following:

Career Breaks can be extended, and where an officer is currently on a career break, the length of their career break has only been calculated to the 30th September 2020.

There are a small number of exceptional cases where a career break exceeds the maximum 5 year period. This is rare and is a case by case basis where exceptional circumstances may affect the return to work such as but not limited to vetting clearance or fitness to return to work.

Request 3

What training did they have to avail of on their return to work and were they submitted to any sort of probationary period?

Answer

We can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your request. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

This information is not recorded or held on the database and is not required to be within the remit of the Career Break and Unpaid Leave Policy.

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

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.psnipolice.uk

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