



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02011

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Training

Subject: Neurodiversity Training

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Does this force provide mandatory training for its officers, in handling those with neurodiverse conditions, who come into contact with Police?

Answer

No, PSNI do not currently provide mandatory training surrounding this area.

Request 2

If so, could you provide details of this training? This might include how long it lasts, a brief outline of what is covered etc.

Answer

Not applicable, please see answer for request 1.

Request 3

If this force does not provide mandatory training for its officers in this area, could you provide details of any training which is offered?

Answer

PSNI currently provide 'Autism and Police Custody' online learning, 'Introduction to Neurodiversity' online learning for Student Officers, 'Introduction to Neurodiversity' online learning for Probationary Support Officers and a classroom Neurodiversity lesson for trainers.

Request 4

Could you provide any copies, if they exist, of this forces protocol/guidance documents for handling those with neurodiverse conditions (for example at arrest, or in Police custody)

Answer

There is currently no PSNI protocol.

Request 5

If there is any separate protocol for autism, could you provide this as well?

Answer

National Autistic Society guidance documents include; 'Autism: a guide for Police Officers and Staff' and 'Autism: a Guide for Criminal Justice Professionals'. These have been emailed to all officers and staff within PSNI. These two training materials can be found at the links below:

- [Criminal Justice - a guide for police officers and professionals \(autism.org.uk\)](https://autism.org.uk/CriminalJusticeGuide)
- [1429 Autism Guide Prof A4 24pp 3rdFA 110214.indd \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](https://justice-ni.gov.uk/1429-Autism-Guide-Prof-A4-24pp-3rdFA-110214.indd)

Nottinghamshire Autism Police Partnership Custody Toolkit is included in Autism and Police Custody training. Details of how to obtain this toolkit are provided in the link below:

- <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/autismandpolicing/resources/index.aspx>

Request 6

Lastly, does this force use autism alert cards?

Answer

Yes, along with partner agencies, in conjunction with Autism NI.

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.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.psni.police.uk

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