



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2022-02781

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Training

Subject: PSNI Engagement with 'Mermaids'

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

Request 1

I am getting in touch to obtain whatever information you hold about the relationship between the PSNI and 'Mermaids'.

Has 'Mermaids' been engaged to provide training or advice to the PSNI, and if so what are the details?

Answer

The PSNI have not formally engaged with 'Mermaids' to provide training or advice.

Request 2

If not, can you tell us what the nature of the PSNI's engagement with 'Mermaids' has been?

Answer

There is no formal engagement between the PSNI and 'Mermaids'.

The PSNI LGBT+ Network have spoken with volunteers of 'Mermaids' at events such as Belfast Pride, Foyle Pride and Mid Ulster Pride, as they have with many other groups and community members that are present at these events. However no formal engagement has taken place.

Please note: 'Mermaids' is a charity that offers support to transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse children and young people, as well as their families and professionals involved in their care.

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 Corporate Information Manager, 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 unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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.