



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02817

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Recruitment and Promotion

Subject: Rank Structure

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 1a

At full strength, how many substantive Sergeant positions should there be in the PSNI?

Answer 1a

A total of 971.

Please note; This is based on the projected establishment of Sergeants as of 31 March 2023. (Revised as a result of budgetary constraints placed on the police service due to the lack of an Executive in the Northern Ireland Assembly to allocate full term budgets).

Request 1b

Please provide how many officers there currently are at the rank of sergeant and please advise of these how many are substantive sergeants and how many are temporarily promoted?

Answer 1b

A total of 1065, of which 206 are temporary promoted and 859 are substantive as of 4th November 2022.

Request 1c

Please provide a projected requirement for how many officers the PSNI needs to promote from Constable to Sergeant over the next three years bearing in mind current vacancies at the rank and projected vacancies due to wastage through retirement or promotion.

Answer 1c

As of 30th September 2022 the forecasted promotions to Sergeant by 31st March 2025 is 170. These figures are subject to change depending on availability, leavers and available budgets.

Request 2a

At full strength, how many substantive Inspector positions should there be in the PSNI?

Answer 2a

A total of 332.

Please note; This is based on the establishment of Inspectors as of 31 March 2023 (Revised due budgetary constraints placed on the police service due to the lack of an Executive in the Northern Ireland Assembly to allocate full term budgets)

Request 2b

Please provide how many officers there currently are at the rank of Inspector and please advise of these how many are substantive Inspectors and how many are temporarily promoted?

Answer 2b

A total of 368, of which 73 are temporary promoted and 295 are substantive as of 4th November 2022.

Request 2c

Please provide a projected requirement for how many officers the PSNI needs to promote from Sergeant to Inspector over the next three years bearing in mind current vacancies at the rank and projected vacancies due to wastage through retirement or promotion.

Answer 2c

As of 30th September 2022 the forecasted promotions to Inspector by 31st March 2025 is 82. These figures are subject to change depending on availability, leavers and available budgets.

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.