



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2023-00662

**Keyword:** Organisational Information HR Employment and Other

**Subject:** Police Officers attached to Rape Crime Unit

### 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

How many Police officers were attached to PSNI Rape crime unit from March 2020 until August 2021?

#### Answer

In March 2020 there were 44 Officers attached to Rape Crime Unit (RCU).

In August 2021 there were 48 Officers attached to Rape Crime Unit.

Please note: resourcing within RCU is constantly changing and the above numbers are only a snapshots which will not fully reflect the number of deployable officers on any given day within this time period due to sickness, maternity, transfers or secondments.

#### Request 2

How many Police officers were attached to PSNI Rape crime unit from February 2022 until present day?

#### Answer

In February 2022 there were 42 Officers attached to Rape Crime Unit.

As per 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 there are 52 Officers attached to Rape Crime Unit.

Please note: resourcing within RCU is constantly changing and the February 2022 numbers are only a snapshots which will not fully reflect the number of deployable officers on any given day within this time period due to sickness, maternity, transfers or secondments.

#### Request 3

From the period of March 2020 until August 2021 how many officers with the Rape Crime unit worked remotely due to duty adjustments? By working remotely I mean away from their normal place of work, including working from home.

### **Clarification sought**

What do you understand by 'Duty Adjustment'?

Duty Adjustment can be temporary following a period of illness, recovery or permanent due to chronic and enduring condition. They could also be related to DDA and pregnancy. Additionally the specified period spans COVID 19 pandemic when a Hybrid working policy was in place and some officers were permitted to work from home having been determined as clinically vulnerable or to reduce risk of infection. Please specify to which of those your request relates.

### **Clarification received**

To clarify when I state Duty Adjustment I mean related either to DDA or to pregnancy, and it can be temporary or permanent. As the Covid-19 pandemic spanned both these time frames, I also include people who were covered by the hybrid working policy and were permitted to work from home having been determined as clinically vulnerable or to reduce risk of infection.

### **Answer**

Between 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021, 2 officers from RCU were shielding and working fully remotely. All of the other RCU officers worked remotely on occasion, however this was not classified as a duty adjustment but part of the PSNI's response to Public Health Guidelines to Covid-19 pandemic. Please note all RCU officers, in the course of their duties and on regular basis work away from their normal workplace carrying out investigative enquiries and other duties.

### **Request 4**

From the period of February 2022 until present day, how many officers with the Rape Crime Unit work remotely due to duty adjustments? By working remotely, I mean away from their normal place of work, including working from home.

### **Answer**

Between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, 1 officer had a duty adjustment to work remotely for approx. 12 weeks. Please note all RCU officers, in the course of their duties and on regular basis work away from their normal workplace carrying out investigative enquiries and other duties.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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