



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00782

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Recruitment and Promotion

Subject: April 2023 Student Officer Intake

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

I would like to find out information in relation to any intake for Student Officers in April 2023.

Request 1

Will there be an intake for Student officers in April 2023?

Answer

Yes, the next Student Officer Development Programme will commence in April 2023.

Request 2

How many student officers will be in this April intake?

Answer

PSNI can advise that appointment of Officers to the April 2023 course are currently ongoing, however it is anticipated there will be approximately 30 candidates commencing on this course.

Request 3

At the March 2023 Policing Board Meeting, Simon Byrne mentioned there would be an accelerated intake of student officers in the first 3 months of the financial year. Is there any information on how many has been agreed so far for these rumoured intakes?

Answer

The Freedom of Information Act requires PSNI to provide a response to a request for 'recorded' information which is held (s.1 FOIA). Under Section 1 (1) of the Act, a request which asks PSNI to speculate on something as a YES / NO answer and is not seeking recorded information is not a valid request under the Freedom of Information Act.

However in order to be of assistance we can advise there is an increased number of appointments to our April 2023 course. The recruitment forecast for the remainder of 2023/24 is currently under review and we will update our candidates accordingly on the timing of our next course.

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.