



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2023-00793

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Recruitment and Promotion

Subject: Recruitment Planning

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

Does PSNI have contingency planning in place for if the budget was to be increased in the next calendar year?

Answer 1

Yes. We are committed to ensuring that we are in a position to accelerate our programme of recruitment should our budget allocation be increased.

Request 2

How many student officers would PSNI ideally require if budget constraints did not exist?

Answer 2

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is required to operate within our allocated budget which determines the funding available to maintain our police officer numbers. Our Student Officer recruitment forecast is continually reviewed against the budget available, and also reflects the number of leavers from the service. The New Decade, New Approach agreement, proposed an increase in our police officer establishment to 7500, however funding for this number of police officers is not currently in place.

Request 3

How quickly could recruitment be increased if budget was increased?

Answer 3

As per our response to Q1, we are committed to ensuring that we are in a position to accelerate our programme of recruitment should our budget allocation be increased.

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.