



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01547

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Recruitment and Promotion

Subject: Rank Structure Following Organisation Shrinkage

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

To follow on from previous FOIs of similar nature, can you please advise if the required numbers at the rank of Sergeant, Inspector and Chief Inspector have been officially revised or changed by the organisation since resource allocation groups/resource allocation meetings and entering the new financial year.

I have formatted this request in questions below as per the questions in FOI-2022-02817 as substantive numbers at each rank will have changed since the original request due to retirements, resignations and dismissals.

Clarification from Requester:

Can I ask that any figures or data provided (particularly with reference to Sergeants and Inspectors) is taken after 15th May where a large number of officers were promoted from Sergeant to Inspector as per the Chief Con's brief to NI Policing Board?

Request 1A

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

Answer

A total of 1001.8 as at 19th May 2023.

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

A total of 1048, of which 821 are substantive and 227 are temporarily promoted as at 19th May 2023.

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

At this point in time we are unable to project recruitment as the budget has not been finalised.

Request 2A

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

Answer

A total of 345 as at 19th May 2023.

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

A total of 365, of which 327 are substantive and 38 are temporarily promoted as at 19th May 2023.

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

At this point in time we are unable to project recruitment as the budget has not been finalised.

Request 3A

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

Answer

A total of 93 as at 19th May 2023.

Request 3B

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

Answer

A total of 96, of which 82 are substantive and 14 are temporarily promoted as at 19th May 2023.

Request 3C

Please provide a projected requirement for how many officers the PSNI needs to promote from Inspector to Chief 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

At this point in time we are unable to project recruitment as the budget has not been finalised.

Request 4A

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

Answer

A total of 52 as at 19th May 2023.

Request 4B

Please provide how many officers there currently are at the rank of Superintendent and please

advise of these how many are substantive Superintendents and how many are temporarily promoted?

Answer

A total of 52, of which 44 are substantive and 8 are temporarily promoted as at 19th May 2023.

Request 4C

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

Answer

At this point in time we are unable to project recruitment as the budget has not been finalised.

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.