



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note the text of this request has been reproduced exactly as received.

FOI Reference number: FOI 101/2024

Date: 11 December 2024

Request:

Please provide the following information:

1. Provide the number of FOI requests the NIPB has responded to citing a delay in the time taken to complete / progress an element of work activity due to moving offices. Please also provide the time period (from and to) that this figure falls within.
2. Provide the number of official letters, emails or other correspondances the NIPB has written citing a delay in the time taken to complete / progress an element of work activity due to moving offices. Please also provide the time period (from and to) that this figure falls within.
3. Provide the number of emails / letters / other correspondances the NIPB has written to former RUC / PSNI Officers explaining the delays in service provision directly relating to ill health retirements and / or injury on duty awards as per questions 1 and 2 (above).

Answer:

The information requested is not held collated. To retrieve the information would require a systematic search of all electronic records created by the Board. There is no corporate record of the specific period of time during which correspondence may have referenced a delay as a result of our premises move. As such the Board would have to review the electronic records created over a period of several months as a conservative estimate. The Board creates a substantial number of electronic documents typically in excess of 3000 plus each month.

As such we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for the Board it is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the Board holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Board is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) states that where a public authority claims that section 12 of the FOIA is engaged, as in this case, the public authority should, where reasonable, provide advice and assistance to help the requestor refine their request so that it can be dealt with under the appropriate limit.

Given the volume of records generated within the Board, it is difficult to provide guidance which would allow the request to be refined.

If you have queries about this request or the decision please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should contact the Board's Chief Executive -

Via Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Or in writing at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House
Block D
2 – 4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

You should contact the Board within 40 working days of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following web link –

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

or in writing at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114

Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

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