



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: FOI 22/2023

Date: 1 June 2023

Request:

Dear NIPB, after reading a Judicial Review, Neutral Citation No:(2023) NIKB ref SCO 12059. It has come to light that the Police Pensions and Injury Benefits Directorate of NIPB under take quality assurance exercises in respect of ALL medical reports and Certificates produced by Selected Medical Practitioners (SMP)and Police Medical Appeal Boards (PMAB).

My Questions are

1/With whom or what organisations are the results from your quality assurance SHARED WITH.

Answer –

Prior to the aforementioned Judicial Review, Board Officials quality assured all results, to include reports and certificates completed by Selected Medical Practitioners (SMP) and Independent Medical Referees (IMR). Any issues were raised directly with the SMPs and via the Department of Justice (DoJ) for IMRs. Following the judgement, Board Officials are still required to quality assure all Ill health retirement results, however, with regard to Injury on Duty Award results, Board Officials only quality assure the reassessment date and implementation date. Any issues are raised directly with SMPs and via the DoJ for IMRs.

2/ Can you provide said shared information and/or the results from it.

Answer –

This information cannot be provided as it contains personal information related to individual officers and former officers' cases.

This personal information is exempt from disclosure to you under section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) allows a public authority to withhold information from a response to a request for information under the FOIA when the information requested is personal information relating to someone other than the requester and its disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles.

The first data protection principle requires personal data to be processed fairly and lawfully. This personal data is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA as, in our view, it would be unfair to provide it to you, and therefore disclosure would be in contravention of the first principle of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

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 write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

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

Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted 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.