



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

FOI Reference number: FOI 20/2025

Date: 18 April 2025

Request.

1. How many serving police officers were referred to the Board for ill health medical retirement in the last two years? (IE..were eligible and approved)

That would be 2023 and 2024.

2. Please list 5 main reasons for medical retirement?

3. How does this compare to the previous two full years - 2022 and 2021?

4. Please list 5 main reasons for medical retirement?

5. How many police officers are currently waiting approval for ill health medical retirement?

6. Please list 5 main reasons for medical retirement?

Answer:

I can confirm that the Board holds information falling within the description specified in your request under questions 1, 2, 3, 4 5 & 6. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with this 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, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Board is not obliged to comply with your request under questions 1, 2, 3, 4 5 & 6 so 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.

If you narrow the scope of your request to one year, for example, 2023 - 2024, the Board may be able to provide the information required because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so. If questions 2 & 4 are dropped, then the Board can provide a response to all years requested. In addition, please advise if your wish for the yearly figures to be calculated in calendar

or financial year? Finally, the Board cannot provide a response to question 6 until the officers go through medical assessment.

Any reformulated request the Board receives from you will be treated as a fresh FOI request.

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.