



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

FOI Reference number: FOI 10/2025

Date: 13 May 2025

Request.

1. Regarding police injury on duty pensions - how many cases have been submitted to the Dept of justice for an IMR review following a SMP decision since May 2023 (known as a reconsideration)?

Answer:

Please be advised that following assessment by a Selected Medical Practitioner (**SMP**) for an Injury on Duty (**IOD**) Award an applicant may appeal this decision under *Regulation 30 of the PSNI and PSNI Reserve Injury Benefit Regulations 2006 (2006 Regulations)*. Since May 2023 48 appeals have been submitted to the Department of Justice (**DoJ**).

2. How many cases have been submitted to the DOJ regarding appealing the IMR decision since May 2023?

Answer:

The decision of an IMR cannot be appealed, only reconsidered under Regulation 31(2) of the 2006 Regulations. With that in mind, since May 2023, 14 reconsideration cases have been submitted to the DoJ for reconsideration by the IMR.

3. How many days in total have NIPB staff worked from home or 'remotely since May 2023? a breakdown of department would be useful however to help with narrowing the scope of this request information specific to staff responsible for processing police pensions and injury pensions would suffice.

Answer:

The Board does not hold any recorded information in respect of your request.

4. What is the average wait time for police injury pensions appeals of reconsideration from approval by the policing board to submission to the Dept of Justice.

Answer:

Following an Appeal (under *Regulation 30 of the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Regulations)*) an applicant may request a reconsideration of the Independent Medical Referee's (IMR) decision pursuant to *Regulation 31(2) of the 2006 Regulations*. Any reconsideration request is upon agreement by the Board and the applicant, as per the 2006 Regulations.

Of the 14 reconsideration cases submitted to the Department of Justice since May 2023 the average waiting time from Resources Committee approval to submission was 499.85 days.

Timeframes for submission of cases have been impacted by a number of factors outside the control of Board officials which included, but are not limited to, the Policing Board office move from Waterside Tower to James House in April 2023 and the 'McCloud' Reassessment project. Both projects required business as usual assessments to be put on hold. In the case of the McCloud reassessment project, nearly 400 former officers had to be reassessed as per the legislative requirements. Both projects were carried out by the existing staffing complement within Police Pensions and Injury Benefits Directorate and no additional staffing was provided. Delay in submission may also have been due to applicants advising that further medical evidence would be provided in support of the reconsideration case.

5. In addition to this request could you also confirm how many cases are awaiting referral to the Department of Justice for IMR consideration.

Answer:

At date of request, there was a total of 59 IMR cases made up of 21 IMR reconsideration cases in process and 38 appeals to the IMR pending referral to DoJ.

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.