



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

FOI Reference number: FOI 27/2025

Date: 23 June 2025

Request.

The amount of public money spent by the Director of Police Pensions and Injury Benefits, [REDACTED] acting on behalf of the board spent during the "paper-based review of each of the cases" by the "two doctors who had no previous involvement in any of the eight cases in relation to the Harveson and Chadwick Judicial review. (ICOS No: 22/022820/01)"
Response provided: £11,200

Clarification was sought as to the breakdown of the £11,200.

Response provided: Due to an administrative error, the previous sum was now amended to £5,940 on 13 February 2025.

Due to the admission of this administrative error, I now respectfully request further information/clarification on how these monies were spent by responses to the following:

- a) Please detail/provide documentation of administrative process, relied upon by administrative staff which dictated that £11,200 was paid for 16 assessments carried out by two SMPs (8 assessments each)?
- b) How did the discovery of this error come about?
- c) Please confirm the exact number of SMPs involved in this process?
- d) Please provide documentation illustrating the breakdown of the £11,200 in relation to each SMP involved with specifics as to the type of assessment carried out and the cost of each assessment per SMP?
- e) Please confirm the cost of a face-to-face assessment carried out by an SMP/IMR?
- f) Please confirm the cost of a paper-based review carried out by an SMP/IMR?

As your correction of 13 February 2025 reveals that only 9 assessments were carried out by 2 doctors, I would then respectfully request the following:

- g) Documentation detailing the breakdown of payments to each SMP for each assessment that accounts for the expenditure of £5,940.
- h) Please supply copies of any policies or procedures which were used to authorise the expenditure of £5,940 to be spent on reviews.
- i) There does not appear to be appropriate approval/authorisation for this expenditure, therefore could you please confirm the delegated limits that staff can approve before approval from Committee or Board level is required?
- j) Chadwick and Harvison Judicial Review costs were previously indicated to be £43,000, was that inclusive of either of the amounts of £11,200 or £5,940?

k) Please confirm where these types of expenditure will be evidenced on the annual accounts?

Answer:

a). The administrative error occurred when a Board Official reviewed one case whereby two SMPs reviewed the case and made an assumption that all cases were reviewed by two SMPs.

b). This is a request for an explanation and does not constitute a valid Freedom of Information Act request. The question asks the Board to provide an explanation of a particular action rather than to provide a copy of recorded information.

c). Two SMPs were involved in the review process.

d). No document exists as the breakdown was an administrative error.

e). The information referred to within this response, specifically information about SMP fees may be found on the Board's website at the following link: [FOI: Fees paid to Selected Medical Practitioners | Northern Ireland Policing Board](#) As such the exemption at Section 21 (Information already reasonably accessible) is engaged. This is an absolute exemption and as such the Board is not required to conduct a public interest test.

f). See response to (e)

g). As this is personal information, pertain to individual Selected Medical Practitioners the Board is not in a position to provide you with this information. 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.

h). See Applicant Declaration form attached as appendix 1.

i). Staff delegated expenditure limits: Executive Officer 1 up to £10k; Staff Officer and Deputy Principle up to £25k, Grade 7 up to £50k and Chief Executive up to £1 million. The expenditure limits do not require Board or Committee approval.

j). The information referred to within this response, specifically information about Chadwick & Harvison's Judicial Review costs, may be found on the Board's website at the following link: [FOI: Costs paid to date by the Policing Board in respect of the Judicial Review by Chatwick & Harvison | Northern Ireland Policing Board](#). As such the exemption at Section 21 (Information already reasonably accessible) is engaged. This is an absolute exemption and as such the Board is not required to conduct a public interest test. These costs did not include £5,940.

k). This is a request for an explanation and does not constitute a valid Freedom of Information Act request. The question asks the Board to provide an explanation of a particular action rather than to provide a copy of recorded information.

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.

PRIVACY NOTICE & APPLICANT DECLARATION

Full Name	
Date of Birth	
Current/Former Rank	
Service Number	

APPLICANT DECLARATION

1. I have read and understood the Privacy Notice (the **Privacy Notice**) attached at Appendix 1 and marked "*Data Controller: Northern Ireland Policing Board Privacy Notice.*"
2. I understand that in order for the Board to carry out its statutory functions, the Board can share information with any/all of the parties listed at Section 5 of the Privacy Notice (the **Interested Parties**).
3. I understand that in order for the Board to carry out its statutory functions, the Board is permitted to requisition medical/personal information from any/all of the Interested Parties.
4. I understand that I can object to the Interested Parties providing the Northern Ireland Policing Board (the **Board**) any/all of the requisite information, as detailed at Section 6 of the Privacy Notice (the **Requisite Information**).
5. I understand that if the Board does not obtain any/all of the Requisite Information and/or I object to the Interested Parties providing the Board with any/all of the Requisite Information then the Board may be unable to adequately process my pension and/or award(s).

Signature	
Date	

APPENDIX 1

DATA CONTROLLER: NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**PRIVACY NOTICE****Processing applications in respect of Ill Health Retirement, Injury on Duty, Pensions and Adult Survivor/Dependent Awards****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this Privacy Notice (the **Notice**) is to explain what information we gather about you, what we use that information for and who we give the information to. This Notice also details your rights in relation to the personal information you have shared with the Northern Ireland Policing Board (the **Board**) and how you can obtain further information in respect of the personal information you are sharing.

Data protection regulation is extremely important and we will always adhere to current legislation governing data protection, specifically we will always comply with current data protection legislation when dealing with your personal information. Further details in respect current data protection legislation can be found on the Information Commissioner's website (www.ico.gov.uk).

2. Who are we?

We are the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

References within the Notice to '*the Board*' '*we*' '*us*' and '*our*' refers to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

3. Who is our Data Protection Officer?

Our Data Protection Officer is Mr William Magee.

Our Data Protection Officer oversees how the Board collects, uses and shares your information whilst ensuring that your rights are protected.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer by telephone (028 9040 8500) or via email at Data.protection@nipolicingboard.org.uk

4. Why are you processing my personal information?

The Board must collect and process personal information in order to meet its public function and to perform various legal and statutory duties conferred on it by legislation. In addition, the Police Administration Branch (the **Branch**) must process personal information in order to assess the working capacity of applicants as detailed below;

4.1. Managing and administering the Injury on Duty award scheme.

- 4.2. Managing and administering Ill Health Retirement applications.
- 4.3. Consider and process reassessments, reconsiderations and appeals in respect of Injury on Duty and Ill Health Retirement applications.
- 4.4. Consider and process adult survivor award applications.
- 4.5. Consider and process dependents' pension award applications.

The lawful basis for processing your personal information is provided under the following provisions of the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**;

- **Article 6(1)(e):** *"processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller."*
- **Article 9(2)(b):** *"processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the Controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and Social Security and Social Protection Law insofar as this authorised by Union or Member State law or collective agreement pursuant to Member State law providing for appropriate safeguards on the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject."*
- **Article 9(2)(h):** *"processing is necessary for the purposes of preventative or occupational medicine for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care treatment or the management of Health and Social Care systems and services on the basis of Union or Member State law are pursuant to contract with the health professional and subject to health conditions and safeguards referred to in paragraph 3."*

If you do not supply the requisite information, it may not be possible to adequately process your pension/award(s).

5. Do you share my personal information with anyone?

In order to allow the Board to effectively complete its public functions it may be necessary for us to share your personal information with the following parties:

- 5.1. The Board's Selected Medical Practitioners (SMP), being a panel of legally appointed doctors. This is in order that an SMP can review your case history and prepare a report and recommendation for the Board.
- 5.2. The Department of Justice and their panel of Independent Medical Referees (IMR) being a panel of legally appointed doctors. This is in order that an IMR can review your case history and prepare a report and recommendation for the Board at appeal stage.
- 5.3. Your appointed representative (if applicable).
- 5.4. Your appointed legal representative (if applicable).
- 5.5. Your current/past GP (if applicable). This will enable the Board to obtain further corroborating evidence, if necessary, to assist in the progression of your case.

- 5.6. Your current/past specialist doctor or therapist (if applicable). This will enable the Board to obtain further corroborating evidence, if necessary, to assist in the progression of your case.
- 5.7. The Board's legal representative, being the Crown Solicitor's Office (if necessary).
- 5.8. PSNI Pensions Branch. This will enable the Board to facilitate any payments due and owing to you and deal with other miscellaneous financial issues.
- 5.9. PSNI Human Resources Branch. This will enable the Board to obtain further corroborating evidence, if necessary, to assist in the progression of your case.
- 5.10. PSNI Occupational Health and Wellbeing Branch. This will enable the Board to obtain further corroborating evidence, if necessary, to assist in the progression of your case.
- 5.11. Information Commissioner's Office. We may need to share your information if you complain about how we handle your personal information.
- 5.12. Pension's Ombudsman. We may need to share your information if you complain about how we have handled your case.

6. What information do you collect?

We process information relevant to the reasons/purposes stated above. This may include (but is not limited to);

- 6.1. Name.
- 6.2. Address.
- 6.3. Telephone number.
- 6.4. National insurance number.
- 6.5. Date of birth.
- 6.6. Physical health history (past and present).
- 6.7. Mental health history (past and present).
- 6.8. Details of medication (past and present).
- 6.9. Details of surgery (past or pending) and any other miscellaneous medical information.
- 6.10. Employment history (past and present).
- 6.11. Family, lifestyle and social circumstances (past and present).
- 6.12. Education history.
- 6.13. State benefit information (past and present).
- 6.14. Any other miscellaneous information that might assist the Board in processing your application.

7. How do you collect my personal information?

In order for us to carry out our statutory function, it is possible for us to requisition personal information from;

- 7.1. You.
- 7.2. Your appointed representative (if applicable).
- 7.3. Your legal representative (if applicable).
- 7.4. Your current/former GP (if necessary).
- 7.6. Your current/former specialist doctor/therapist (if necessary).
- 7.8. PSNI Human Resources Branch (if necessary).
- 7.9. PSNI Pensions Branch (if necessary).
- 7.8. PSNI Occupational Health & Wellbeing Branch (if necessary).

8. Do you transfer my personal information to other countries?

The Northern Ireland Policing Board does not transfer personal information overseas.

9. How long do you keep my personal data?

We will retain your data in line with the Board's Retention and Disposal Schedule.

10. What rights do I have?

You have various rights in respect of the personal information you have supplied to the Board which includes (but is not limited to);

- You have the right to object to the processing in specific circumstances.
- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being [processed, and access to your personal data.](#)
- You are entitled to have personal data [rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.](#)
- You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, [in specific circumstances.](#)
- You have the right to 'block' or suppress processing of personal data, [in specific circumstances.](#)
- You have the right to data portability, [in specific circumstances.](#)
- [You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.](#)

11. How do I exercise my rights or complain if I am unhappy?

If you wish to exercise any of your rights or if you are unhappy with any aspect of this privacy notice please contact the Board's Data Protection Officer at:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D
2-4 Cromac Avenue
Gasworks
BELFAST
BT7 2JA

Telephone number and email address as at Section 3 above.

If you are still not happy and wish to lodge a complaint, or if you wish to find out more information generally about your rights, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk Website: <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>