



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**FOI Reference number: FOI 50/2025**

**Date: 26 September 2025**

### **Request.**

1. In each of the past 10 years how many data breaches has the PSNI reported to the Policing Board? Please provide dates and the nature of the breach.

### **Answer**

3 we are aware of - Main data breach (8 August 2023); loss of a laptop (17 August 2023); Documents, laptop and radio (6 July 2023).

If we were to search records over the last 10 years, 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 consider this question further.

2. On what date did the Policing Board become aware of the 'Major' Data Breach in which Policing staff details were accidentally provided in response to an FOI request?

### **Answer**

8 August 2023

3. It was widely reported that the only details leaked in this data breach were the names of staff, their ranks and possibly the police station to which they are attached. Please confirm whether these details are correct and whether any other data was breached and if so what type of data this was?

### **Answer**

The attached link to the independent report which is published and in the public domain gives the details of what information was released under the FOI, Page 17 paragraph 3.6 refers.

[A review commissioned by the Police Service of Northern Ireland \(PSNI\) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board \(NIPB\), into the PSNI data breach of 8th August 2023 | Northern Ireland Policing Board](#)

4. How much has the Policing Board / PSNI projected this breach will cost. An inclusive figure including projected legal fees and compensation will suffice? (How much has or will be set aside in the PSNI budget for this breach)

**Answer**

This information is not held by the Policing Board. However, we have identified that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) may hold this type of information.

You can contact the PSNI Freedom of Information Team by post at the address below.

Freedom of Information Team  
Corporate Information Branch  
Brooklyn  
65 Knock Road  
Belfast  
BT5 6LE

Or by e-mail;

[CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk](mailto:CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk)

alternatively you can submit your request on the PSNI website at the following link: [CIB | FOI - Police Service of Northern Ireland - Digital Citizen Services](#)

5 How much in total has been paid out to PSNI staff to date for this breach?

**Answer**

This information is not held by the Policing Board. However, we have identified that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) may hold this type of information. Please see contact details provide in our answer to question 4.

6 How much does the PSNI expect to pay out in total compensation?

**Answer**

This information is not held by the Policing Board. However, we have identified that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) may hold this type of information. Please see contact details provide in our answer to question 4.

7 Is compensation to be awarded to all staff, civil and policing?

**Answer**

This information is not held by the Policing Board. However, we have identified that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) may hold this type of information. Please see contact details provide in our answer to question 4.

8 Is compensation a fixed sum for each member of staff or has it been decided upon based on grade or perceived risk?

**Answer**

This information is not held by the Policing Board. However, we have identified that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) may hold this type of information. Please see contact details provide in our answer to question 4.

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk).

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