



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

FOI Reference number: FOI 49/2025

Date: 1 July 2026

Request.

In the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting on the 16th December 2021 reference is made about a consultation and the eventual production of a consultation document concerning the 4 Recommendations contained within the NIAO report entitled " Injury on duty schemes for officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Prison Service"

I would like to ask for some information about this consultation process.

1. What was the consultation about.
2. Was a consultation document ever produced as suggested.
3. If a consultation document was produced could I have a copy of it.
4. Was the Board ever updated reference the outcome of this consultation as suggested.
5. How was the Board updated ie when, where, by what method and by whom.
- 6 Please supply all records pertaining to 5 above.
7. Please provide a copy of the Boards response to the consultation as suggested to include the date of the Boards response.

Answer:

1. [MARCH 2024 PSNI - IOD INJURY ON DUTY SCHEME - Consultation on Proposed Changes Version 21.pdf](#)
2. No, the draft consultation document went to consultation which closed in May 2025; however, the DOJ has not yet published the final consultation document.
3. See response to Question 2.

4. No, the Board awaits receipt of the final Consultation document.
5. Board officials received a verbal update that the Consultation document is still with the Minister for approval.
6. See response to Question 4.
7. The information, within the scope of your request, has been shown to the 'Qualified Person' who for the Board is the Acting Chief Executive. The 'Qualified Person's' opinion is that the exemption at Section 36 (2) (c) is engaged.
As this exemption is a qualified exemption the Board has gone on to carry out a public interest test to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.
Having conducted the public interest test it is felt that the public interest in engaging the exemption to withhold the information does outweigh the arguments towards disclosure at this point in time. A copy of the public interest test is attached at Annex A.

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.

FOI 49/2025 Section 36 Exemption “Effective Conduct of Public Affairs”

Public Interest Test

The above exemption is a qualified exemption, and a Public Interest Test must be carried out to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Information requested by the applicant

Copy of the Board’s response to the PSNI Injury on Duty Scheme consultation on proposed changes.

Arguments in favour of disclosure of the requested information

1. Disclosure of the requested information would be in line with the spirit and requirements of the Freedom of Information legislation in asking public bodies to be open and transparent and would help promote accountability.
2. The matters arising from the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report are still current and are generating significant level of communication. The volume of correspondence received by the Board from individuals also highlights that the IOD consultation is of interest to certain sections of the community

Arguments in favour of engaging the exemption and withholding the requested information

1. The issues arising from the Northern Ireland Audit Office report “*Injury on duty schemes for officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Prison Service*” are ‘live’ specifically the IOD consultation and are still being actively pursued by relevant third parties.
2. Given that the final decision on whether or not to accept recommendations made by the variety of stakeholders rests with the Minister of Justice disclosure of the Board’s consultation response at this time would have a disruptive effective on the work of the Board and the Department of Justice. Releasing incomplete or evolving information could cause misunderstanding, public confusion, and increased demands on the Board and DoJ officials to clarify matters still under review. Both organisations would be left in a position of explaining/ defending a variety of options which may, or may not, be accepted by the Minister of Justice and appear in the final document produced by the Department of Justice.
3. Release of the requested information at this time would adversely impact upon the current operation of the Board’s Police Pensions & Injury Benefits Branch and other stakeholders such as the Department of Justice. It is believed that release of this information would generate an increase in the volume of requests for information which would impact on the Board’s ability to focus on the IOD consultation process

and other core business.

4. Release of information into the wider public arena at this time *could* lead to interested parties amongst the general public and amongst elected representatives to 'lobby' the Board on individual cases, which could also hinder the discussions currently on-going and lead to misrepresentation of issues.
5. The release of this information is of interest to the requestors and may be of interest to other individuals who have a direct involvement with the Injury on Duty process. However, this is not the same as being of interest to the public at large which is what releasing this information under the FOIA is intended to be.

Result

Considering all of the deliberations above, it is felt that the public interest in engaging the exemption to withhold the information outweighs the arguments towards disclosure.

As a result the information should not be provided.