



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

FOI Reference number: 47/2026

Date: 15 October 2026

Request:

This request concerns the Board's work since the publication of the NIAO Injury on Duty report on 10 March 2020 on reform of the PSNI injury-on-duty scheme and the ill-health retirement process, and in particular any changes made or proposed to the guidance issued to selected medical practitioners, independent medical referees and other medical assessors.

Please supply the following information:

1. The minutes, agendas and papers of any steering group, working group or project board established by, or attended by, the Board to take forward the recommendations of the NIAO Injury on Duty report, from 10 March 2020 to the date of this request.
2. Any business case, options appraisal or impact assessment prepared in relation to changes to the injury-on-duty scheme or the transfer of Board functions to another body, including any financial assumptions, projected savings and identified safeguards for the independence of medical decisions.
3. Each version of the guidance issued by the Board to selected medical practitioners and independent medical referees on the assessment of degree of disablement and banding under the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 in force at any time between 1 January 2020 and the date of this request, with the date each version came into effect.
4. Any change log, review note, legal advice summary or Board decision recording amendments to that guidance, and any correspondence received by or sent by the Board between 1 January 2024 and the date of this request concerning the tightening, revision or clarification of

medical guidance, including that referred to in the Board's minutes of 5 February 2026.

5. Any written advice received by the Board since 1 January 2024 to the effect that transferring injury-award or ill-health retirement functions away from the Board would require regulatory or legislative change, and the Board's response.
6. The number of selected medical practitioners and independent medical referees engaged by the Board in each financial year from 2019–20 to 2025–26, and the total fees paid to each category in each year.

Personal data of individual claimants should be redacted; I am not seeking any information about identifiable individuals' cases. Where guidance documents are already published, a link and confirmation of the version history will suffice.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically, at the email address from which this request is sent. Where a document is held in more than one version, please supply each version, or a version history.

If any part of this request is refused, please identify the specific exemption relied upon, explain why it is engaged and, where the exemption is qualified, set out the public-interest balancing exercise in full. Please release any information that can be disclosed rather than refusing the request as a whole.

If you consider that the request exceeds the appropriate cost limit, please tell me which elements are the most costly and what could be provided within the limit, in accordance with your duty under section 16 to advise and assist.

Answer:

I can confirm that the Board holds information falling within the description specified in your request under questions 1 to 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 to 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 for example, for question 1 from 1 January 2022 to date and drop questions 2, 4 & 6; or alternatively, drop question 1, narrow the scope of question 6 to one specific financial year, the Board can provide a response to 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

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 Commission's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO 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 Commission's Office can be contacted at the following web link –

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

or by

Telephone: - 0303 1231114

Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that our 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.