



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**FOI Reference number: FOI 44/2020**

**Date: 14 December 2020**

**Request:**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from you.

The Emblems submitted to yourselves for the PSNI. They were submitted on the 19/11/2001 (dd/mm/yyyy) by the British Government.

I wish to see all info on these;

1. The 7 Draft Emblems submitted to yourselves;
2. Who voted 'Yay' and 'Nay' for the Emblems and;
3. Any PBNi report surrounding the 7 Emblems requested.

**Answer:**

1. Please find attached a copy of the original submission containing the 7 suggested Emblem designs.
2. The issue was considered as part of the agenda during a Policing Board meeting held on 20 November 2001.

At the meeting it was agreed to establish an Ad-Hoc committee to make a recommendation to the Board about the emblems and flags regulation. The members of the Ad-Hoc Committee, appointed by the Chairman, were:

- Pauline McCabe
- Viscount Brookeborough
- Fred Cobain
- Tom Kelly
- Eddie McGrady
- Sammy Wilson

On meeting, the ad-hoc Committee decided to commission further design work.

3. We do not hold any reports based on the 7 emblems.

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 write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Waterside Tower  
31 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG

Email: [foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

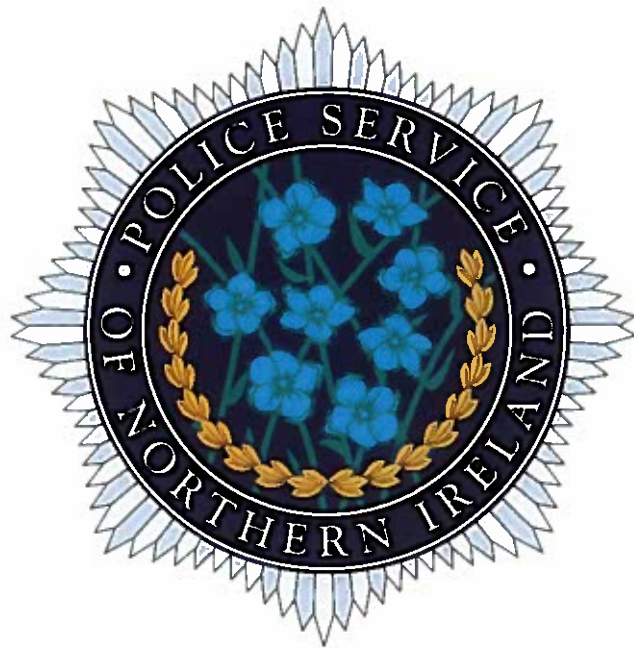
If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted 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.







## EXPLANATION OF DESIGNS

### A. Designs using flax flowers as the basic motif

#### 1. Flax with wreath and bridge

- This design draws on the symbol used by the Assembly, the traditional flax flower, as representative of Northern Ireland.
- The flax flowers balance the turreted bridge, which symbolises protection and security. (The design is not intended to represent any particular bridge in Northern Ireland.)
- The main body of the design is surrounded by a laurel wreath, a design element used by many police services.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland name is represented in a classic belt design with spacing studs for easy reading.

#### 2. Flax with wreath

See above. The bridge is replaced by two additional flowers.

### B. Designs incorporating a cross on shield, with honeycomb and wreath outside

#### 3. A cross on shield, with honeycomb and wreath outside

- Here, the shield in the centre of the design gives the badge a more heraldic air, while projecting the idea of protection and defence.
- The red diagonal cross on a dark green background reflects St Patrick's cross, which is a red saltire on a white background.
- The honeycomb pattern is a stylised representation of the Giant's Causeway, used here to provide texture to the remaining area.
- The laurel wreath is shown behind the star.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland name is represented in a classic belt design with spacing studs for easy reading.

4. A cross on shield, honeycomb and wreath outside

- The design is, in principle, the same as that described above, with a different star.

C. Neutral Designs with the wording making the main visual impact

5. Plain Oval

- The oval design is often used in police emblems, including the RUC's.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland name follows the oval shape of the design, while retaining the belt motif.
- This design is purposely left as plain as possible.

6. Oval with chequered background

- Similar to the one above but here the Police Service of Northern Ireland name is represented in "plaque" style with wording written horizontally.
- The background is chequered to provide texture. This recalls the chequer of police service uniforms (usually most noticeable on the cap) and the design on the side of police vehicles.

7. Oval against a red background

- The red background to the design provides a visual link to the red felt backing of the current insignia.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland name is displayed both round the design and across the centre. The font size emphasises the words "Police Service" over the words "of Northern Ireland".
- The gold colour of the star is intended for chief officers. Lower ranks would have the same design displayed in silver.

8. Stars

Each design is set on a background of a star, which would form the shape of the badge. The colours are intended to simulate polished silver, chrome finish or gold effect. The star is a common shape for a police badge. It appears in many GB police services and in many foreign police service badges c.g. America and South Africa. Several different shapes are offered, but these have no particular significance.