



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number: 04/2021**

**Date: 23 February 2021**

**Request:**

This request is being made in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

It has been widely reported that between 2003 and 2008, Keir Starmer QC acted as an advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing Board in relation to the Human Rights Act. Can you please confirm:

**1. Between what dates Mr Starmer carried out this work**

Mr Starmer was appointed to the role of Human Rights Advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing Board from 27 February 2003 to 31 November 2007.

**2. Whether this position was advertised and if so where? (ie was it advertised in national newspapers?)**

The position was not advertised. The process to appoint a Human Rights Advisor to enable the Board to meet its statutory obligation under Section 3(3) (b)(ii) of the Police (NI) Act 2000 in respect of monitoring police compliance with the Human Rights Act was agreed by the Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2002. Candidates with the requisite human rights expertise were identified and invited to interview on 14 January 2003.

**3. His exact job title**

Human Rights Advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

**4. How many hours he was expected to work each week or month or year (depending on the agreement reached between the board and Mr Starmer).**

Keir Starmer was originally appointed to the role of Human Rights Advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing Board on 27 February 2003 on a three year contract which provided for the option to extend, subject to review by the Board every six months.

The initial contract in 2003 stated that it was anticipated a time commitment of 1/2 days per month was required. The Board subsequently agreed to extend Keir Starmer's contract in 2006 and stated that it was anticipated a time commitment of no more than 7

days per month until January 2007 with this reducing to no more than 4 days per month thereafter.

**5. Whether this role was paid and if so how much?**

The role of Human Rights Advisor was paid.

Remuneration details have been withheld as it is deemed to be the personal data of a third party. 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.

**6. Full details of any expenses Mr Starmer incurred during this period - i.e. hotel and transport costs**

The Northern Ireland Policing Board no longer holds this level of information.

**7. The name of the individual to whom Mr Starmer reported**

Keir Starmer reported to Mr Trevor Reaney, the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

**8. Whether he was the sole advisor to the Board or whether there were others doing the same job (in which case how many others were there?)**

Keir Starmer was the sole Human Rights Advisor to the Board. However, in 2004 the Policing Board appointed Jane Gordon as an Assistant Human Rights Advisor who was in post from 2004 – 2007.

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.