



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 46/2016

Date: 31 October 2016

Request:

██████████ is concerned about the vast quantities of medical data, retained by NIPB and indeed Blackwell Associates, in respect of many retirees, following medical retirement and/or the granting of injury benefit awards.

In some cases we understand, medical records retained, cover many years. Possibly 20 to 30 years.

If this is confirmed then there is a possible breach of the Data Protection Act by NIPB.

██████████ understand that, the holding of medical records should be restricted to the necessity to do so in a specific case and only for the required period. Outside this time span NIPB is required to seek individual written consent.

In responding to this application, ██████████ seek assurances from NIPB that its current policy with regard to holding medical data conforms to the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

If this is not the case, ██████████ would wish to be informed of what immediate action NIPB will take to resolve the situation.

Answer

The Board has a statutory obligation to administer the Injury on Duty Award Scheme. Injury on duty awards are subject to appeal under Regulation 30; reconsideration under Regulation 31(2); and reassessment under Regulation 35(1) of the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006. Medical information provided by claimants will be used in the processing of their application and is retained for the purpose of appeals, reassessments and potential requests for reconsideration. As there is no time limit for the latter, requests can be made at any time.

The Board is satisfied that its policy with regard to holding medical data conforms to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

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

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:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland
3rd Floor
14 Cromac Place
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JB.

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.