



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: FOI 47/2017

Request: - Injury on Duty Applications

"The reformulated request hereby submitted to the Board is in respect of F.O.I of questions 2, 3 and 4 as below, and for a period of the previous three months from date of receipt of request."

Under what circumstances are the N.I.P.B or it's employee's entitled to claim privilege in respect of documents, legal or otherwise, pertaining to the opinion of counsel/crown solicitor.

1. (Relates to the sentence above). The number of occasions such right to privilege has been claimed by the N.I.P.B.
2. The number of I.O.D pension applications, including retrospective I.O.D applications which have been awarded to date predicated upon the opinion / direction / advice of counsel/crown solicitor or as a result of adjudication by the N.I.P.B.
3. The number of I.O.D pension applications, including retrospective I.O.D applications which have been refused to date predicated upon the opinion / direction / advice of counsel/crown solicitor, or as a result of adjudication by the N.I.P.B.

It has been taken that your request relates to the operation of the NIPB Police Administration Branch for the period 24 April 2017 to 24 July 2017.

Response:

Question 1: A review of records has shown that during the timeframe the N.I.P.B. claimed the right to privilege on 1 occasion.

Question 2: All I.O.D pension applications including appeals to the Independent Medical Referee, both successful and unsuccessful, are subject to adjudication by the N.I.P.B. based on a framework of adherence to Police Pension and Injury Benefit Regulations; case law from a range of sources including Pension Ombudsman and court / judicial decisions; and from opinion / direction / advice of counsel from the Crown Solicitor's Office and primarily from the review of the process completed in 2014 by Mr. David Scoffield QC.

The number of successful cases from 24 April 2017 to 24 July 2017 are shown below in Table 1 both for initial applications referred to the Selected Medical Practitioner and for appeals to the Independent Medical Referee.

Table 1: Number of Successful Cases from 24 April 2017 to 24 July 2017	
Selected Medical Practitioner	
Applications for IOD Pension / Retro IOD Pension	29
Independent Medical Referee	
Appeals	1

Question 3: The number of unsuccessful cases from 24 April 2017 to 24 July 2017 are shown below in Table 2 both for initial applications referred to the Selected Medical Practitioner and for appeals to the Independent Medical Referee.

Table 2: Number of Unsuccessful Cases from 24 April 2017 to 24 July 2017	
Selected Medical Practitioner	
Applications for IOD Pension / Retro IOD Pension	20
Independent Medical Referee	
Appeals	16

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:-

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.