



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number:** 43/2016

**Date:** 11 October 2016

**Request:**

Could I please have a copy of the rules regarding membership for PCSPs?

Also, is it against the rules of membership for a member of the PCSP to classify oneself as an independent member when they actually belong to a political party/ work for a political party outside the partnership?

**Answer:**

The membership of PCSPs (Policing and Community Safety Partnerships) is legislated for in the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Part 3 Schedule 1.

PCSP Members consist of:

Political Members – 8, 9 or 10 Political members (Councillors/Aldermen) nominated by the local council and, so far as practicable, reflective of the balance of parties prevailing among the members of the council immediately after the last local general election.

Independent Members- 7,8 or 9 Independent Members appointed by the Policing Board from among persons nominated by the council.

Designated Members – 7 Designated Members who are representatives of statutory agencies which have been formally designated by Order of the Department of Justice because of the contribution that these statutory agencies make to local policing and community safety issues.

The Code of Practice for the Appointment of Independent Members to PCSPs and DPCSPs can be found at:

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doj/code-of-practice-on-the-appointment-of-independent-members-to-pcsp-and-dpcsp-march-2015.pdf>

As this information is publically available the exemption at section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies.

Membership of a political party and/or working for a political party outside the partnership (PCSP) is not a prohibiting factor in terms of appointment of an individual. The application form does contain a section for political activity monitoring, and this information is made available to the Board's appointment panel.

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.