



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: FOI 01/2013

Date: 30 January 2013

Request:

Details, correspondence and documentation in regard to the costs of any legal action pertaining to PSNI staff borne by the NI Policing Board over the past five years i.e. 2008 - 2012

Answer:

There is an on-going Equal Pay case against DFP, NIPB & Others in relation to Breach of Contract for PSNI Civilian Staff. Costs have not yet been finalised but NIPB has been invoiced by Crown Solicitors Office for the sum of £12,195.

I attach the invoice (Appendix A) and you will note that some details have been redacted. This redaction is carried out under the exemption at section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; that is the information is protected under Legal Professional Privilege.

A public interest test has been carried out in relation to this exemption with the outcome being that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. A copy of our public interest test document is attached as Appendix B.

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
12 Cromac Place
Gasworks
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JB.

Telephone: - 02890 269 380
Email: - ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please be advised that all Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information will 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.

PROFESSIONAL FEES INVOICE

APPENDIX A

NI - Finance Personnel & Administration
Branch
 Finance Dept - 4th floor
 Waterside Tower
 31 Clarendon Road
 Laganside
BELFAST
 County Antrim
 BT1 3BG

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| MATTER No: | [REDACTED] |
| REFERENCE: | [REDACTED] |
| INVOICE No: | [REDACTED] |
| Tax point: | [REDACTED] |
| Vat Reg. No: | [REDACTED] |

Matter Title: [REDACTED]
 Client Ref: [REDACTED]
 Contact: [REDACTED]

Payment Should Be Made To:
 CSO Professional Fees A/C
 Sort Code:
 Account Number:

To our professional charges :
 For Period: September 2012

Please see below for breakdown -

| | Charges £ | VAT % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 10/ 9/2012 [REDACTED] | 2710.00 | 20.00 |
| 11/ 9/2012 [REDACTED] | 2710.00 | 20.00 |
| Professional Charges | 12195.00 | |
| VAT | 2439.00 | |
| Total | 14634.00 | |

Dr. to: **CROWN SOLICITOR FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST BT1 3JY
 Telephone 028 90546018

PROFESSIONAL FEES INVOICE

NI - Finance Personnel & Administration
Branch
 Finance Dept - 4th floor
 Waterside Tower
 31 Clarendon Road
 Laganside
BELFAST
 County Antrim
 BT1 3BG

MATTER No: [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

INVOICE No: [REDACTED]

Tax point: [REDACTED]

Vat Reg. No: [REDACTED]

Matter Title: [REDACTED]

Client Ref: [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

Payment Should Be Made To:
 CSO Professional Fees A/C
 Sort Code:
 Account Number:

To our professional charges :

For Period: September 2012

Charges
£

VAT
%

Please see below for breakdown -

| | Charges £ | VAT % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 12/9/2012 [REDACTED] | 2710.00 | 20.00 |
| Professional Charges | 12195.00 | |
| VAT | 2439.00 | |
| Total | 14634.00 | |

Dr. to **GROWN SOLICITOR FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST BT1 3JY
 Telephone 028 90546018

PROFESSIONAL FEES INVOICE

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| No. 3 - Finance Personnel & Administration Branch Finance Dept - 4th floor Waterside Tower 31 Clarendon Road Laganside BELFAST County Antrim BT1 3BG | MATTER No: [REDACTED] |
| | REFERENCE: [REDACTED] |
| | INVOICE No: [REDACTED] |
| | Tax point: [REDACTED] |
| | Vat Reg. No: [REDACTED] |

Matter Title: [REDACTED]
Client Ref: [REDACTED]
Contact: [REDACTED]

Payment Should Be Made To:
 CSO Professional Fees A/C
 Sort Code:
 Account Number:

To our professional charges :
For Period: September 2012

Please see below for breakdown -

| | Charges £ | VAT % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 13/ 9/2012 | 2710.00 | 20.00 |
| Professional Charges | 12195.00 | |
| VAT | 2439.00 | |
| Total | 14634.00 | |

Dr. to CROWN SOLICITOR FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST BT1 3JY
 Telephone 028 90546018

PROFESSIONAL FEES INVOICE

NIPS - Finance Personnel & Administration
Branch
Finance Dept - 4th floor
Waterside Tower
31 Clarendon Road
Laganside
BELFAST
County Antrim
BT1 3BG

MATTER No: [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

INVOICE No: [REDACTED]

Tax point: [REDACTED]

Vat Reg. No: [REDACTED]

Matter Title: [REDACTED]

Client Ref: [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

Payment Should Be Made To:
 CSO Professional Fees A/C
 Sort Code:
 Account Number.

To our professional charges :

For Period: September 2012

Please see below for breakdown

| | Charges £ | VAT % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 14/9/2012 [REDACTED] | 355.00 | 20.00 |
| [REDACTED] | | |
| Professional Charges | 12195.00 | |
| VAT | 2439.00 | |
| Total | 14634.00 | |

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ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
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FOI 01/2013

Exemption at Section 42 of the FOIA – Legal Professional Privilege

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST CONSIDERATIONS

Requested information

Details, correspondence and documentation in regard to the costs of any legal action pertaining to PSNI staff borne by the NI Policing Board over the past five years i.e. 2008 - 2012

Arguments that weigh in favour of disclosure

Release of the information would promote transparency, accountability and participation.

Providing the requested information is in line with the spirit of openness and transparency enshrined within FOI legislation.

There is a public interest in the way that public authorities spend public money.

Arguments that weigh in favour of maintenance of the exemption

The information represents comprehensive details of the work carried out to date by the Board's legal representatives in respect of on-going legal proceedings. There is a public interest in ensuring that the Board can obtain advice on matters without the details of the work conducted and issues addressed by legal advisers being disclosed.

The Board and individuals involved in this ongoing process have the expectation that matters should remain confidential and will not be disclosed to the general public.

There is a general public interest in maintaining the exemption in order to safe guard the openness in all communications between the Board and the Crown Solicitors Office to ensure full and frank legal advice, which in turn is fundamental to the administration of justice.

Decision

In all the circumstances of the case, it would appear that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.