



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: FOI 02/2014

Date: 13 February 2014

Request:

In the minutes from September it states:

AGREED:

That the Chief Executive should write to DOJ outlining the Board's range of views on the appointment criteria for the post of Chief Constable, seeking information on any potential equality issues arising and opportunities for Senior PSNI Officers to serve in other Police Forces in order to fulfil the intent behind the rule without incurring the disruption of leaving the Service to gain further experience.

Would it be possible to get a copy of the letter the Chief Executive of the Board sent to DoJ on the matter?

Answer:

A copy of the letter sent by the Policing Board to the Department of Justice is attached to this response.

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.org.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.

Anne Connolly
Chair

Your Ref: SUB/716/2013

Date: 26 September 2013

Mr David Ford MLA
Minister of Justice
Minister's Office, Block B
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SG

Dear David

CHIEF CONSTABLE APPOINTMENT CRITERIA

On 5 September, the Board considered a paper in relation to a review of the existing criteria applied to the appointment of the position of Chief Constable of the PSNI. In correspondence to the Board dated 28 May 2013, you sought to establish the level of support the Board would offer to any change to the current regulations governing senior PSNI appointments. You sought the Board's views regarding the *minimum experience and criteria for appointing a Chief Constable, in particular on the requirement that a Chief Constable would have worked for a minimum of 2 years in more than one police service jurisdiction.*

There were divergent views from the Board as to whether or not the criteria should continue to be applied in future appointment processes. Members expressed concerns about the potential equality implications and impact of the 2 year rule and wish to seek the Department's position as to whether or not this issue and its wider implications have been fully explored or assessed.

On a wider issue, some concerns were expressed that there should be a mechanism to allow senior officers the opportunity to gain experience outside the service to meet the spirit of current legislation without the requirement to transfer out of PSNI.

I await your response in due course.

Yours sincerely

Anne Connolly
Chair



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