



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 14/2016

Date: 28 April 2016

Request:

I would like to inquire, whether it is possible to receive any datasets of the following for research (and possible publication) purposes:

- (1) the yearly Ombuds surveys
- (2) the underlying survey that produced the report "Policing 2014: What influences people's perception about whether the police are doing a good job in NI?"

Answer:

Question 1

In your request you refer to the Ombuds Survey but we have assumed you mean the Omnibus Survey. An omnibus survey is a sample survey which contains questions about a wide range of issues. The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is carried out on a regular basis and is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland. This survey of topical issues allows Government to monitor the views of a representative sample of the people of Northern Ireland. The content of the survey varies from quarter to quarter and is made up of modules commissioned by government bodies and others.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board (the Board) commissions a module of the survey once a year on public perceptions of the performance of the police, of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and perceptions of the Northern Ireland Policing Board itself. However, this module is deemed to be an official statistic and is exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Official statistics, as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, are not datasets within the meaning of the dataset amendments to FOIA. This definition is set out at Section 11(5) (b) (2) of the FOIA.

By way of assistance however, survey data are routinely deposited with the UK Data Service which provides expertise and advice on how to analyse complex general population data sets. Data deposited with the UK Data Service are available to download upon registration at www.ukdataservice.ac.uk."

Question 2

The underlying survey (dataset) that produced the report "Policing 2014 can be viewed on the Board's website at the following link:

www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/requested-dataset

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 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.