



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 14/2017

Date: 24 April 2017

Request:

Part 1: How much was paid to Blackwell Associates by NIPB, during their tenure for supplying Selected Medical Practitioners (SMP's)? Could I have this on a yearly basis?

Part 2: Since the new regime at Waterside Tower commencing in October 2016, what is the total amount paid to SMPs. Could I have this on an individual basis with names of SMPs against each amount?

Answer:

Part 1: The total figure paid to Blackwell Associates for the contract period from 01 April 2011 to 30 September 2016 was £870,649. The final year of the contract includes payments up to January 2017 as the caseload associated with the contract was wound up.

Payments by year are as follows;

Apr 11 - Mar 12	£ 75,557
Apr 12 - Mar 13	£107,765
Apr 13 - Mar 14	£133,284
Apr 14 - Mar 15	£201,513
Apr 15 - Mar 16	£172,337
Apr 16 - Jan 17	£180,193
	£870,649

Part 2: Since the new SMP process commenced in October 2016, the total amount paid to SMPs is £37,121. This includes £3,500 for training.

Payments to individual SMPs are deemed to be the personal data of a third party and are exempt from disclosure under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). To release this information under the FOIA would contravene the first Principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

General:

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.