



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number:** 35/2014

**Date:** 11 November 2014

**Request:**

I understand the land at Desertcreat was sold to the Policing Board in 2005, but since, although there were plans and much speculation nothing has happened on the plans to build a police training college on the site.

1. I would like to know how many people sit on the programme board for the proposed plan to build a police and fire training college at Desertcreat?
2. Who they are, which of them are public representatives and which are civil servants?
3. What other roles they hold and whether they have been paid for their role on the Desertcreat Programme Board.
4. Also, why have they been unable to get this project off the ground?
5. Which budget did the money come from for the build and were any EU finds appropriated for the project?

**Answer:**

**Question 1** - there are a total of 12 people on the programme board for the NI Community Safety College (NICSC).

**Question 2** - Appendix A lists the organisations to which the 12 members of the NICSC are attached.

**Question 3** - please see the answer to question 2 above. In regard to the representatives from the Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) they have not been paid *any specific remuneration for their membership of the NICSC programme board*. The remuneration of the Chief Executive and Members of the Policing Board is set out in our Annual Report (Page 117 refers). This can be accessed on our website via the following link:

<http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/index/publications/annual-reports.htm>

In respect of the other members of the programme board the Policing Board does not hold any information regarding the remuneration of these individuals.

**Question 4** - the Chair of the Northern Ireland Community Safety College Programme Board, Assistant Chief Constable Alistair Finlay is on record as saying "The Northern Ireland Community Safety College has faced a number of delays since inception due to increasing construction costs and a difficult budget period for sponsor departments. Delivery of the College is a commitment included in the Executive's Programme for Government and the Programme Board is working to deliver on this commitment. Providing a joint facility for all three services can improve training opportunities and deliver savings on courses provided. The three services are full participants on the programme board and will continue to ensure the best interests of all staff are fully considered."

As at the 3 November 2014 the following statement was issued on behalf of the NICSC programme board:

"Following a detailed review carried out by the NICSC Programme Board the Steering Group has concluded that it would not be prudent at this stage to press ahead with the current project. The Steering Group has however, asked for reviews to be carried out to determine what the present position means for the procurement process and secondly to review the training requirements for the three services taking account of the current budgetary climate. As development of the College is a commitment in the Programme for Government, any decision on its future will be taken by the Executive."

**Question 5** - The funding model for NICSC is a simple publicly funded project. The College is intended to provide a training facility which allows the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) to train and develop officers and staff. Each of these 3 organisations are required to contribute to the capital costs of this project. No EU funding has been provided.

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:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
3rd Floor  
12 Cromac Place  
Gasworks  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB.

Telephone: - 0303 1231114  
Email: - [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk).

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

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**Northern Ireland Community Safety College - Programme Board Membership**

| <b>Chairperson</b>  | <b>Organisation</b>                                     |
|---|---|
| Mr Alistair Finlay, PSNI Assistant Chief Constable Human Resources      | Police Service of NI (PSNI)                             |
| <b>Membership</b>   |   |
| Mr Sam Pollock, Chief Executive   | NI Policing Board (NIPB)                                |
| Mr Ryan Feeney, Independent Board Member                                | NIPB  |
| Mr David Best, PSNI Finance / Estates                                   | PSNI  |
| Chief Superintendent Michelle Larmour, Head of PSNI College (Designate) | PSNI  |
| Mr Jim Wallace, Chief Executive   | NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)                        |
| Mr Dale Ashford, Assistant Chief Fire Officer                           | NIFRS   |
| Mr Mark Adam  | NI Prison Service (NIPS)                                |
| Mr Max Murray   | NIPS  |
| Mr Brendan Smyth, Health Estates  | Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety |
| Mr Pat O'Neill  | Strategic Investment Board (SIB)                        |
| Dr. Bryan Gregory   | SIB   |