



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 51/2013

Date: 07 November 2013

Request:

We would be most grateful if you could answer, the following questions relating to the governance of your organisation and the budgetary implications of policy changes in 2013.

- 1. What changes in the budget (decrease or increase) of your organisation have there been in 2013, in sterling, as well as the percentage of the increase or decrease in budget. Please include changes that are anticipated to be made in the remainder of 2013.***

Answer:

The NIPB budget was set by the Department of Justice in February 2011. The budget 2010 process set budgets for the fiscal years 2011/12 – 2014/15 and the budget allocation for NIPB for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 was £7.879 and £7.813m respectively. The Department of Justice requested that the NIPB relinquish 5% of its budget in the current year or £384k and this was achieved.

- 2. What changes in mandate or powers, ICC accreditation requests submitted, institutional (structural) changes, budget/staffing cuts have occurred in your organisation in 2013/are anticipated to occur in the remainder of 2013.***

Answer:

None.

- 3. Who decides on the budget of your organisation (that is, who is the budgetary authority): parliament and/or government or any other body?***

Answer:

Northern Ireland Assembly.

- 4. Briefly describe the different stages of the budget approval procedure – from the initial proposal to the final budget – highlighting which actors are involved and how so. Also specify the extent to which, if at all, your organisation is itself involved in the process**

Answer:

The Department of Justice allocate the NIPB a budget based on required savings from the Northern Ireland Assembly

- 5. What are the criteria for appointment (for example: minimum work experience, qualifications, citizenship, age limitation, conflict of interest limitation, etc.) of the head (for example, director, president, ombudsman, etc.) of your organisation?**

Answer:

There is no age limitation.

In relation to citizenship the details are as follows:

Nationality Requirements

The Board must ensure that you are legally entitled to work in the United Kingdom. The Chief Executive post is classified as Non-Public Service, therefore certain nationality requirements apply. Applicants must be either:

- (i) A UK or Irish national; or
- (ii) A Commonwealth citizen; or
- (iii) A British Protected Person; or
- (iv) An EEA national; or
- (v) A Swiss National; or
- (vi) A person who is not an EEA or Swiss national, but is a family member of an EEA national who has moved to the UK from another EEA Member State for an approved purpose.

The criteria used for the most recent appointment process in 2012, and lifted directly from the Candidate Information Booklet is as follows:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be able to demonstrate via evidence on their application form that, by the closing date for applications, they have:-

1. EITHER

A Degree (in any discipline) or an equivalent qualification¹ at a minimum pass mark and at least 3 years experience of successfully discharging senior management

responsibilities² (including strategic contribution to the corporate and business planning process) in at least a medium sized³ public, private or voluntary sector organisation.

OR

In the absence of a degree applicants must demonstrate 5 years experience of successfully discharging senior management responsibilities² (including strategic contribution to the corporate and business planning process) in at least a medium sized³ public, private or voluntary sector organisation.

(Explanation notes are included after the shortlisting criteria. Please provide full details including specific dates on your application.

Candidates must also email a relevant organisation chart clearly showing their line of reporting to [REDACTED] by the closing date for applications).

AND

2. Applicants will also be required to confirm they have access to a form of transport which permits them to meet the requirements of this post in full.

SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

In addition, applicants should be aware that after an eligibility sift, should it be necessary to shortlist candidates to go forward to interview, the following shortlisting criteria will be used.

1. Evidence of strong innovative leadership to achieve organisational objectives including the management of change;
2. Evidence of giving professional balanced advice to a Board and/or Committee on issues of significant importance to the organisation;
3. Evidence of developing and maintaining productive working relationships with political representatives and key stakeholder groups;
4. Demonstrable evidence of resilience including the ability to maintain a professional approach when confronted with conflicting pressures;
5. Evidence of competent programme and project management that delivers successful outcomes;
6. Evidence of maintaining effective financial control to achieve value for money and meet challenging objectives within defined budgets; and
7. Evidence of managing the researching and drafting of intelligible policy papers including the ability to verbally communicate findings.

The evidence on your application form will be assessed using a pre-agreed set of shortlisting indicators which will be graded on the basis of strength and quality of an answer. The panel reserves the right to apply a minimum standard to be achieved at the shortlisting stage.

- 6. Briefly describe the process through which the head of your organisation is appointed (for example, who is the appointing/nominating authority, etc.).**

Answer:

The Chair of the Board convenes a panel, drawn from the Board and representative of the Board's Political make up. The panel then agree the job description and person specification, the advertisement and any other specific issue relevant to the Board at that time. Shortlisting and interviews and any other assessment methodology deemed appropriate by the panel are then carried out and a merit list is drawn up at the end of the interview process with the top candidate being offered the role.

- 7. Is the head of your organisation supported by another governing body, such as a management board, committee, commission, etc.?**

Answer:

The CEO is supported by the Policing Board Members (19 in total). 10 of these Policing Board Members are political members and 9 are independent members.

- 8. Where such a governing body exists, provide information on existing criteria, if any, for appointment of member(s) of this body (for example, minimum experience, qualifications, citizenship, age limitation, conflict of interest limitation, etc.).**

Answer:

We do not hold this information. It is the responsibility of the Department of Justice to appoint the independent Board Members. The political members are nominated by the 5 political parties using the d'Hondt principles. Information relating to the political members is held by the individual political parties or the NI Assembly.

- 9. Where such a governing body exists, briefly describe the process through which member(s) of this body is/are appointed, for example, who is the appointing/nominating authority, etc.**

Answer:

We do not hold this information. It is the responsibility of the Department of Justice to appoint the independent Board Members. The political members are nominated by the 5 political parties using the d'Hondt principles. Information relating to the political members is held by the individual political parties or the NI Assembly.

10. Is your organisation in any way attached to the executive branch (for example, is part of a Ministry), including as regards its premises?

Answer:

The Policing Board is an Arm's Length Body or Non-Departmental Public Body attached to the Department of Justice.

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.