

23 October 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\103

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – A RECENT LETTER FROM DOJ
PERMANENT SECRETARY HUGH WIDDIS TO JON BOUTCHER CHIEF CONSTABLE
PSNI.**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Justice on the
30/08/2024, detailed below: -

1. A recent letter from DoJ Permanent Secretary Hugh Widdis to Jon Boucher Chief Constable PSNI– which started " Dear Jon, In Consultation with..."

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

Response

1. Please see attached document.

Redactions

Please note the names and contact details of junior officials are exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) – Personal Information.

Section 40(2)

The Data Protection Act 2018 prohibits the release of personal data and information which relates to third parties which could, if released, identify the third party to whom it relates. Disclosure would contravene the first and second principle of the Data Protection Act in that the data would be processed unfairly and, in a manner, incompatible with the original purpose. Further, none of the conditions in Article 6 of the General Data Protection Regulation are met to authorise lawful disclosure.

There is an expectation that names of these officials would not be released publicly in connection with their work to protect their personal right to privacy. Furthermore, release of their names and contact details into the public domain could result in them potentially perceiving or receiving pressures, threats or intimidation due to the nature of their work. Release of this information would be unfair thus breaching the first principle of the Data Protection Act.

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review, please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review, you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Records & Information Manager