



Department of
Justice
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnystrie O tha Laa
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

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24 June 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\69

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REFEREE
APPEALS**

Dear Sir,

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

Request

Under the freedom of information act I would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. How many IMR have you got as of today 8/5/23?*
- 2. Is the IMR full time or part time?*
- 3. How many medicals will they review per month?*
- 4. How many medicals where carried out in February 2024/march 2024/ April 2024 and May 2024?*
- 5. As of today the 8/5/24 how many people are on the waiting list for reviews?*

This response addresses your questions:

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.

Freedom of Information is a request for recorded data that the Department of Justice holds. To be helpful the response to your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

Under the freedom of information act I would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. How many IMR have you got as of today 8/5/23?*

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore out of scope for a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

As the Department received your query on 8 June 2024, we have assumed that "today" means 8 June 2024. Assuming you mean 8 June 2024, the following response applies:

The Department has one IMR, contracted through a supplier, to provide Independent Medical Referee (IMR) services.

- 2. Is the IMR full time or part time?*

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore out of scope for a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

The supplier's IMR provides at least one day per week to the Department depending on their availability.

- 3. How many medicals will they review per month?*

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore out of scope for a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

It is not possible to say how many appointments will be conducted on any given day, week, or month as IMR appeal cases are based on individual medical circumstances.

4. How many medicals where carried out in February 2024/ March 2024/ April 2024 and May 2024?

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore out of scope for a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

The following medicals were conducted in: -

February 2024	Nil
March 2024	Three (x3) desktop reviews
April 2024	Three (x3) desktop reviews
May 2024	One (x1) desktop review and One (x1) face to face appointment

5. As of today the 8/5/24 how many people are on the waiting list for reviews?

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore out of scope for a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question has been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

The Department is currently in receipt of eighty (x80) IMR appeal cases awaiting review. These are made up of the following: -

1.	Awaiting appointments	64
2.	Appointments allocated	10
3.	Paper based review to be completed	6
	Total	80

The Department is aware of a number of IMR appeal cases currently sitting with the Northern Ireland Policing Board (the Board). To receive a more complete response to the number of IMR cases currently in the system, your question should be directed to the Board at foi@nipolicingboard.org.

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