



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

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05 September 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\95

Freedom of Information request - Ill Health Retirement statistics (appeals and reconsiderations) 2017 - 2023

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Justice on the 10 August 2024, detailed below: -

Request

Between 2017 and 2023 please can you provide the following stored data relating to every appeal and reconsideration:

- 1. Original "Banding" given by the SMP that was being appealed*
- 2. New "Banding" given by the IMR after the appeal*
- 3. Original "Banding" given by the SMP that was being reconsidered*
- 4. New "Banding" given by the SMP after it was reconsidered*
- 5. This material is stored and used each year to inform the numerous pensions committees and budget/cost saving reviews that each authority carries out. Therefore it should be easily accessible and within any budgetary restrictions.*

Response to questions:

The DOJ has estimated that to locate, retrieve and extract the information that might be relevant to your request would involve work considerably more than the appropriate limit,

this is due to the large number of files. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents an estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours, at a cost of £25.00 per hour, to determine whether the Department holds the information, and then retrieve and extract that information.

To date, 141 files have been identified as *potentially* containing relevant information. It is estimated that to search through each file manually for relevant information will exceed the central government limit of £600. Consequently, the department is not obliged to comply with your request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.

You may, therefore, wish to consider changing the scope of your request. One way of doing so might be to specify a more defined data range, which may enable us to conduct a more targeted file search. In addition, or alternatively, you may wish to detail more specific information in relation to the subject matter of your request.

I should make clear that the Freedom of Information Act contains a number of exemptions which we will consider in respect of any information we might find, and so a further refinement of your request does not guarantee any / all information being provided.

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