

24 February 2025

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CASES PROGRESSED BY THE IMR
SINCE MAY 2023 (APPEALS AND RECONSIDERATIONS).**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Justice on the 4 February 2025, detailed below: -

Request

1. *Regarding police injury on duty pensions please confirm how many cases have been submitted by the NIPB to the DOJ for an IMR appeal (following an SMP decision) or for a reconsideration on an IMR decision?*

Following clarification, you have indicated you are specifically interested in the time frame from May 2023.

2. *How many cases have been progressed by the IMR since May 2023.*

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 questions have been supplemented with additional information answered under Line of Business.

1. **Regarding police injury on duty (IOD) pensions please confirm how many**

cases have been submitted by the NIPB to the DOJ for an Independent Medical Referee (IMR) appeal (following an SMP decision) or for a reconsideration on an IMR decision?

Following clarification, you have indicated you are specifically interested in the time frame from May 2023.

Year	May 2023 – February 2024	March 2024 – February 2025*
Appeal Assessments Received	11	41
Reconsideration Assessments Received	1	9
Total	12	50

* Figures correct at 24 February 2025

2. How many cases have been progressed by the IMR since May 2023?

IMR Assessments

Year	May 2023 – February 2024	March 2024 – February 2025*
Appeal Assessments Completed	0	62
Reconsideration Assessments Completed	0	13
Total	0	75

*Figures correct at 24 February 2025

Between February 2023 and February 2024 all IMR assessments were suspended. This was due to several factors: -

- unavailability of medical assessment rooms due to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) relocating premises;*
- the strict legislative timings associated with the outworkings of the McCloud Remedy; and*
- the expiry of the IMR contract and the significant difficulties encountered by the Department in sourcing / contracting a new supplier to undertake this service. A new supplier was appointed in February 2024 and IMR appointments recommenced in March 2024.*

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 faithfully

Records & Information Manager