

2 May 2023

REFERENCE: FOI\23\29

Dear Sir

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 4 April 2023 regarding claims for Criminal Injury Compensation.

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 the information that you are looking for, and you have the right to have the information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

Responses are provided below to the nine questions in your request:

- 1.) How much criminal injury compensation has been paid in Northern Ireland in the past five years? (For clarity, from 1 Jan 2017 - Present Day).

Response: - £59,323,227.53 has been paid in criminal injuries compensation from 1 Jan 2017 to 24 April 2023.

- 2) *Can a year-by-year- breakdown be provided of the figure requested in question 1?*

Response:-



Year	Compensation paid in year
2017	£10,073,967.94
2018	£10,352,622.07
2019	£6,532,070.57
2020	£5,472,821.39
2021	£7,648,349.34
2022	£13,285,060.64
2023 (1 January to 24 April)	£5,958,335.58
TOTAL	£59,323,227.53

3.) *What is the highest individual amount paid in that period?*

Response;- £1,531,404.50

4.) *What injury was that award being paid for?*

Response:- The information on injuries for the individual who received the compensation is considered to be confidential and disclosure would be a breach of confidence. Details of the injuries are therefore considered to be exempt for release under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5.) *What was the highest individual amount paid out between 1 Jan 2022 to present day?*

Response: - £1,531,404.50

6.) *What injury was that award being paid for?*

Response:- See response to 4) above.



7.) *What range of injuries has been covered by compensation in the period requested in question 1? (If this is too big or specific a request, please provide a general range in terms of severity).*

Response: - A guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme can be found at www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-criminal-injuries-compensation-scheme-2009

This guide includes the range of injuries covered by the Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme.

8.) *How many criminal injury compensation claims have been rejected in the period outlined in question 1?*

Response:- The number of applications for criminal injuries compensation that were deemed ineligible for compensation at the first decision and review assessment stages were as follows:

Year 1 st Jan – 31 st Dec	Number of Denials
2017	2149
2018	2044
2019	1975
2020	1538
2021	1573
2022	1128
01/01/2023 – 24/04/2023	497

9.) *How are criminal injury compensation payments factored into the DoJ's work and budget?*

Response: - An annual budget is made available for criminal injury compensation payments which is monitored throughout the year to identify any easements or pressures.



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 him 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

