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11/03/2022

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 97/2022**

Thank you for your request for information regarding the NPCC portfolios and inclusion of PSNI, which has now been considered.

**Applicant Question:**

I am writing in connection to some inquiries I would like to conduct, namely the following;

1. List of every portfolio within the NPCC, such as the Coordination Committees and portfolios under them.
2. Clarify the position of the Police Service of Northern Ireland within the NPCC, as it is stated the PSNI is not a signatory, yet attends the Chief Constables' Council and DCC Mark Hamilton holds an NPCC Lead portfolio.
3. Clarify the requirements of holding an NPCC portfolio, e.g must be a substantive Assistant Chief Constable (or equivalent) in a Police Service with a signatory agreement with the NPCC

**NPCC Response:**

The NPCC does hold information captured by all three questions of your request. Parts one and three are released in full.

In relation to question one of your request, I have attached an up to date list of NPCC Coordination Committees and Portfolios to this response letter.

In relation to question three of your request, it states within the Coordination Committee Terms of Reference that:

'The Chair of each Coordination Committee shall be a serving Chief Police Officer of a Police Force which is a signatory to this Agreement...  
...Each Portfolio and Working Group lead must be a chief officer level holding the equivalent rank of Assistant Chief Constable or Commander (MPS Equivalent).'

Clarification of Northern Ireland's position within the NPCC has been withheld under Section 21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means as it can be found within the NPCC Section 22a agreement which is available to download from NPCC website.



The NPCC has a legal obligation to try and advise and assist you further with your request; for more information on the legislation please see Annex A.

In wishing to assist you further, I have provided the link below to the Section 22a agreement.

Clarification on Northern Ireland's position can be found on page 9 (Background Section), where it states:

*'the Parties would collaborate together not just for the benefit of themselves, but also for the benefit of the Police Service of Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland who were not parties to the Initial Collaboration Agreement as they did not have the necessary legal powers to enter into a Collaboration Agreement but who have agreed to assist and to co-operate with the NPCC on the terms as shall be set out in separate agreements with the Chair of the NPCC.'*

[NOT L001\4025696\9 \(npcc.police.uk\)](#)

Yours sincerely

**Fiona Greenlees**

[npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk](mailto:npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk)

[www.npcc.police.uk](http://www.npcc.police.uk)

## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

### **Internal Review**

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

## **Annex A**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

### **The legislation: Section 21 Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means**

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—
  - a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
  - b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

S21 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

### **Legislation – Section 16**

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.