

PBNI disclosure Log – response to Request
Request reference: 023.44.13
Date of Request: 29 July 2013
Date of Response: 28 August 2013

Request

I am writing to obtain information about the total amount of money paid to trade unions by your organisation, the amount of staff time spent on trade union duties and/or activities and the payment of subscriptions.

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

1. A list of trade unions which received payments from your organisation and the total amounts paid to each union for financial years a) 2011-12 and b) 2012-13. If it is not possible to list the amount paid to each union, please provide a total amount paid to all unions. Please do not include membership dues or salary costs. Please only include direct payments.

2. Please state:

a) Which trade unions your organisation provide staff time to work on trade union duties and / or activities (sometimes called 'Trade Union facility time') in i) 2011-12 and ii) 2012-13.

b) The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff that were provided for each trade union in i) 2011-12 and ii) 2012-13. For example, if a member of staff spends 2 days per week on union business, this is equal to 0.4 FTE.

3.a) Does your organisation provide the facility to deduct trade union subscriptions from staff salaries in the payroll process?

b) If so, for each union please state what your organisation charged for this service (whether as a fixed amount per employee or a percentage), and the total amount collected in:

i) 2011-12

ii) 2012-13

Please note that the guidelines issued by ACAS state that: "An employee who is a member of an independent trade union recognised by the employer in respect of that description of employee is to be permitted reasonable time off during working hours to take part in any trade union activity. An employee who is a member of an independent and recognised trade union is also permitted to take reasonable time off during working hours for the purposes of accessing the services of a Union Learning Representative (provided those services are services for which the Union Learning Representative is entitled to time off)."

If the information is not recorded, there is no way of ascertaining whether the time off provided is reasonable. I therefore do not expect the response that the organisation does not hold this information. If a formal record is not kept then I will accept a reasonable estimate.

If the response to any of the questions is 'nil' or you are unable to answer any of them, please continue to respond to the other questions

Response

Q1 There was no money paid to trade unions by PBNI in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Q2 a) In 2011-12 and 2012-13 trade union facility time was provided in respect of NAPO (National Association for Probation Officers and NIPSA (Northern Ireland Public Sector Alliance).

b) The number of FTE staff provided for each trade union in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is as follows:

NAPO	NIPSA
0.70 (2011-12)	0.30 (2011-12)
0.70 (2012-13)	0.55 (2012-13)

Q3 a) Yes

b) PBNI did not charge for this service in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI had handled your request you may ask for an internal review using our complaints procedure. A copy of our procedure is available on our website www.pbni.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF