

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

**BY EMAIL**

**Our Ref: FOI 2077**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request for information was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested in relation to the Ill-health retirement waiting list.

Please find this information below.

**1. The official waiting list used to determine the waiting time [REDACTED]**

I should advise that the official list contains personal information of all other applicants and as such is deemed exempt from disclosure in line with Section 40(2), via Section 40(3A) (a), of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is an absolute exemption, and no public interest test is required.

I can however advise that applications are submitted to HSC Pension Service medical assessors on a date received basis. Furthermore, cases in which a member has a limited life expectancy are prioritised.

**2. The number of people who were on that list as at 14/9/2022 and 6/7/2023.**

Occupational Health Services have advised that as of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 they have had 90 applications. Unfortunately, the current Ill Health spreadsheet does not hold the number on the list on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 due to the fact that the data is continuously updated as and when decisions are returned.



### **3. How many people are currently on the list.**

There are currently, approximately 183 ill health applications awaiting a decision with HSC Pensions (as of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023).

### **4. What is the average length of time to get a formal response.**

Based on a sample of applications within this time period the average length of time for a response was 222 days.

### **5. What has been the longest time that someone has waited to get a response.**

Within that sample, the longest a member waited for a decision was almost 360 days.

### **6. What is the shortest time that someone has waited to get a response.**

Within that sample the shortest a member waited for a decision was 2 days.

### **7. What percentage of people who have applied for ill health retirement have been granted it.**

For applications submitted during the period 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 67% were successful in their application for ill health retirement.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1113  
**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office

3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

**Karen Bailey**  
Chief Executive