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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-03681

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** DISCIPLINE QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO 4 COUNTY TYRONE DCU's

### **Request:**

**Question 1.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined (clarified as those officers against whom formal disciplinary action has been taken for example warning, suspension, dismissal etc.) in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008)?

**Question 2.** The reasons for this disciplinary action (if applicable)?

**Question 3.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been dismissed from their posts in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008)?

**Question 4.** The reasons for dismissal (if applicable)?

**Question 5.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been suspended from their posts in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008)?

**Question 6.** The reasons for suspension (if applicable)?

**Question 7.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) are currently suspended from their posts?

**Question 8.** The reason for current suspension (if applicable)?

**Question 9.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to drug misuse (clarified as illicit substances) in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Question 10.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to alcohol misuse (clarified alcohol use for example drinking on duty, drunk on duty) in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Question 11.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to violent behaviour (clarified as towards fellow staff, prisoners etc.) in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Question 12.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to harassment (clarified as towards fellow staff, prisoners etc.) in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Question 13.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to internet misuse in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Question 14.** How many PSNI officers in each of the four District Command Units (Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown) have been disciplined for issues relating to theft in the last 5 years (clarified as the financial years of 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008) and what action was taken (if applicable)?

**Answer:**

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

**Due to restructuring within the PSNI the four District Command Units of Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon/South Tyrone and Cookstown ceased to be district command units on 31.3.07. A new district command unit structure went live on 1.4.07 and as a consequence the old command units of Dungannon/South Tyrone, Omagh and Cookstown are now within F District and Strabane part of G District. The information you request therefore falls within the old district command unit structure until 31.3.07 and thereafter into areas.**

**Answer 1.** From 1.4.03 to 31.3.07, 3 police officers in Omagh district/area have been formally disciplined, 4 in Strabane district/area, 6 in Dungannon/South Tyrone district/area and 3 in Cookstown district/area.

In each case the officer appeared before a misconduct hearing where the panel had powers to impose sanctions of caution, reprimand, fine, reduction in pay, reduction in rank, requirement to resign as an alternative to dismissal and dismissal.

The dates of misconduct hearings do not necessarily fall within the same year as detection.

**Answer 2.** Reasons for the formal disciplinary action was as follows:

Omagh district/area - one officer was formally disciplined after being convicted at court of motoring offences, 1 for failure in performance of duty and 1 for failure in professional duty, police investigations, equality, integrity and property.

Strabane district/area - two officers were formally disciplined after being convicted at court of motoring offences, 1 for failures in performance of duty, police investigations and property and 1 for failures in dealing with property.

Dungannon/South Tyrone district/area - six officers were formally disciplined after being convicted at court of motoring offences.

Cookstown district/area – three officers were formally disciplined for failures in integrity.

**Answer 3.** As the overall tenor of your request relates to officers disciplined, I am interpreting this question as relating to officers who have been dismissed as a consequence of having been formally disciplined.

As a consequence of formal disciplinary action 2 officers were dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal in the Omagh district /area. No officer in the three remaining districts/areas was required to resign as an alternative to dismissal or dismissed as a consequence of formal disciplinary action.

**Answer 4.** The two officers were dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal as a consequence of cases being proven before a misconduct panel. One officer had been convicted at court of motoring offences. The second officer appeared before a misconduct panel in relation to a failure in integrity.

**Answer 5.** The following officers were suspended:

Omagh district/area – 3 officers.

Strabane district/area – 1 officer

Dungannon/South Tyrone district/area – 1 officer

Cookstown – nil

It should be noted that these figures relate to suspensions effected within the five year period requested. It should be further noted that not all formal disciplinary investigations result in suspension.

**Answer 6.** The reasons are as follows:

Omagh district/area – 1 officer alleged to have committed a motoring offence, 1 officer alleged to have committed a criminal offence and 1 officer for alleged failures in professional duty and integrity.

Strabane district/area – 1 officer alleged to have committed a criminal offence.

Dungannon/South Tyrone – 1 officer for alleged failure in integrity.

**Answer 7.** The following officers are currently suspended:

Omagh district/area – 1 officer

Strabane district/area – 1 officer

Dungannon/South Tyrone – nil

Cookstown – nil

**Answer 8.** Reasons are as follows:

Omagh district/area – officer alleged to have committed a criminal offence.

Strabane district/area – officer alleged to have committed a criminal offence.

**Answer 9.** None.

**Answer 10.** The following officers have been formally disciplined as a consequence of being convicted, by the courts, of drink driving.

Omagh district/area – 1 officer – officer required to resign as an alternative to dismissal.

Strabane – 2 officers – both officers were fined.

Dungannon/South Tyrone district/area – 6 officers – 1 officer reduced in pay, 4 fined and one reduced in pay.

Cookstown district/area – nil.

Please note that the offence of drink driving includes driving with excess alcohol and driving whilst unfit. The offences were committed whilst off duty.

**Answer 11.** None.

**Answer 12.** None.

**Answer 13.** None.

**Answer 14.** None.

It should be noted that the above information relates to officers who were stationed within the districts/areas mentioned at the time when suspension was effected or formal disciplinary action commenced.

The figures supplied have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. All the details requested are not recorded centrally and were obtained from the interrogation of several databases and the manual examination of a number of files. Information extracted in this manner may not be as accurate as that extracted from a single central database.

It should be noted that each case is examined on an individual basis to determine the level and nature of misconduct of the officer and the extent to which the PSNI's Code of Ethics has been breached. The seriousness of the offence, the circumstances surrounding its commission and its potential impact will dictate the level of action to be pursued and the misconduct sanction ultimately imposed.

The Police Service expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times. Whilst

the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall number of police attached to the four areas concerned i.e. just over 400 officers at the date of your request.

United Kingdom Police Services do not use generic systems to capture information. For this reason the PSNI's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other Police Service.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Team on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our complaints procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of the Freedom of Information Team, Freedom of Information, and PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review you remain dissatisfied in anyway with the handling of the request you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. 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.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk).

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.