



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-03586

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** POLICE OFFICERS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES SINCE 2003

### Request:

The total number of police officers charged (clarified as charged and convicted) with a criminal offence and reported to the Professional Standards Department (charged includes those formally charged after arrest and those charged by the issue of a summons) each year and a range of offences for which charged and convicted and a range of ranks involved.

### 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.

Please refer to table attached 0000001514.pdf. Your attention is drawn to the notes at the bottom of the table.

The figures supplied have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

Officers convicted of criminal offences, in addition to being dealt with through the normal criminal process, are also subject to internal misconduct investigations, which may lead to misconduct hearings and sanctions.

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 size of the police service i.e. just over 9000 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.

**TABLE 1**  
**PSNI OFFICERS CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND REPORTED**  
**TO THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT OF THE PSNI – 2003-**  
**2007**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NO. OF OFFICERS CONVICTED</b>	<b>RANGE OF OFFENCES</b>	<b>RANGE OF RANKS</b>
2003	35	DRINK DRIVING, CARELESS DRIVING, NO INSURANCE, NO DRIVING LICENCE, NO VEHICLE EXCISE LICENCE, ASSAULT, DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR, THEFT, EXCESS SPEED, ATTEMPTED DECEPTION, FAIL TO STOP, FAIL TO REPORT, FAIL TO REMAIN, NO MOT, DANGEROUS DRIVING, BREACH OF OCCUPANCY ORDER, BREACH OF NON MOLESTATION ORDER, POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION, PERVERT COURSE OF JUSTICE, BREACH OF RAILWAY BYE LAWS, DRUNK IN CHARGE OF FIREARM, FAIL TO USE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK, POSSESSION OF LOADED FIREARM IN PUBLIC PLACE, BREACH OF DATA PROTECTION ACT, FAIL TO PRODUCE INSURANCE, FAIL TO PRODUCE DRIVING LICENCE, BREACH OF CONDITION OF FIREARMS CERTIFICATE, NO R PLATES, INDECENT BEHAVIOUR, DRIVING UNACCOMPANIED, NO L PLATES, NO FIREARMS CERTIFICATE.	INSPECTOR, SERGEANT, CONSTABLE, RESERVE CONSTABLE FULL TIME, RESERVE CONSTABLE PART TIME.
2004	37		
2005	34		
2006	56		
2007	25		

**NOTE 1. THE FIGURES REPRESENT THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED AND NOT THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS. AN OFFICER MAY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A NUMBER OF OFFENCES RELATING TO THE SAME INCIDENT AND/OR MAY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF BEING INVOLVED IN MORE THAN ONE INCIDENT IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR.**

**NOTE 2. THE FIGURES REPRESENT THE INCIDENTS REPORTED TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT AND DO NOT INCLUDE ANY MINOR OFFENCE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH AT LOCAL MANAGEMENT LEVEL.**

**NOTE 3. CONVICTION DO NOT NECESSARILY FALL INTO THE SAME YEAR AS DETECTION.**

**NOTE 4. THE FIGURES INCLUDE THE ISSUE OF AN ADULT CAUTION.**

**NOTE 5. FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THE ISSUE OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES. THE PSNI DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY RECORD THE ISSUE OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES TO POLICE OFFICERS.**

**NOTE 6. DRINK DRIVING INCLUDES OFFENCES OF EXCESS ALCOHOL, DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRINK OR DRUGS, DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND FAILURE TO PROVIDE SPECIMENS.**