



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-05027

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: POLICE OFFICERS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Request:

Please confirm how many serving officers in the PSNI, have been convicted of: Fraud and deception related offences, violent offences including assault, drug related offences, sexual offences or racial, religious or homophobic offences (clarified as the number of currently serving police officers who have been convicted of these offences where details had been reported to the Professional Standards Department of the PSNI) in the past 3 years.

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.

From 12th November 2005 until the date of your request, a total of two officers currently serving have been convicted of a criminal offence in the categories you requested and reported to Professional Standards Department of the PSNI.

One serving officer was convicted of forgery. This officer was administered with an Adult Caution as directed by the Public Prosecution Service. The nature of the direction suggests that the offence was at the lower end of the scale.

The other serving officer was convicted of possession of a class C drug. This officer is currently suspended from duty pending a misconduct hearing. No officer currently serving has been convicted of a violent offence or of an offence of a sexual, racial, religious or homophobic nature.

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.

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

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 under 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

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.psnipolice.uk.

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