



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-04811

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** SERVING OFFICERS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

### Request:

**Please provide details of numbers of serving officers with criminal convictions (clarified on 12 November 2008 as the number of police officers who had been convicted while still serving where details had been reported to the Professional Standards Department of the PSNI since the inception of the PSNI).**

### 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.

The PSNI replaced the Royal Ulster Constabulary (GC) on 4.11.01. From that date until the date of your request a total of 246 officers have been convicted of a criminal offence while still serving and reported to Professional Standards Department. The majority of convictions are for motoring offences.

Further details can be obtained by visiting our website @ [www.psni.police.uk/freedom of information/classes of PSNI officers convicted of a criminal offence since the inception of the PSNI on 4.11.01](http://www.psni.police.uk/freedom%20of%20information/classes%20of%20PSNI%20officers%20convicted%20of%20a%20criminal%20offence%20since%20the%20inception%20of%20the%20PSNI%20on%204.11.01) and reported to Professional Standards Department.

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. from over 13000 officers in 2001 to just over 8700 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, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to 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 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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psnipolice.uk/index.htm>

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