



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-03429

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** DRUG TESTING OF POLICE OFFICERS

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The number of police officers from the constabulary who have tested positive for illegal drug-use (whatever the substance may be) since 30th October 2008?

#### Answer

Two

#### Question 2

The number of police officers from the constabulary who have tested positive for illegal drug-use (whatever the substance may be) between the dates: 30th October 2007 and 30th October 2008?

#### Answer

Two

#### Question 3

Please provide the number of officers having tested positive since 30th October 2008 against whom disciplinary action was taken.

#### Answer

No officer has been disciplined. However, 2 officers await the conclusion of the disciplinary process and are currently suspended from duty.

#### Question 4

Please provide the number of officers having tested positive between the dates: 30th October 2007 and 30th October 2008 against whom disciplinary action was taken.

#### Answer

None. It should be noted however, that two officers left the Organisation prior to the completion of the disciplinary process.

The policy on drug testing of police and staff was introduced within the PSNI in August 2008.

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall number of PSNI officers i.e. under 9000 officers.

United Kingdom Police Services do not use generic systems to capture information. For this reason 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 me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, 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 @ [www.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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