



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00268

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE - COUNTY TYRONE

Request and 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.

Question 1

A recent FOI response to myself from the PSNI (**F-2008-05382**) cited 24 officers in Co Tyrone who have been charged and convicted of a criminal offence and reported to the Professional Standards Department. In my original request I had asked for details of the rank of officers and the exact offence they had committed. This information was withheld because of the precise nature of my request and the low number of incidents, which could lead to officers being identified. I wish to submit a new FOI document, requesting a list of the offences committed across Tyrone, not broken down by date/year/DCU, so that the issue regarding identification of officers is no longer applicable, and therefore the type of crimes (e.g. criminal damage, drink-driving), which these officers have committed, can be released to me. For guidance, a general table similar to the one in the following response would suffice:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/police_officers_charged_with_criminal_offences_since_2003.pdf

Answer

Please see Table attached.

Question 2

How many officers are currently suspended in the following four areas: Dungannon/South Tyrone, Cookstown, Omagh and Strabane?

Answer

The following officers are currently suspended in each of the four areas:

Dungannon area – none
Cookstown area – none
Omagh area – one officer
Strabane area – one officer.

It should be noted that the above information relates to officers who were stationed within the areas mentioned at the time when conviction occurred/suspension was effected.

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 PSNI's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other Police Service.

Question 3

Also, would the PSNI state where responses to 2009 FOI responses are made available on www.psni.police.uk since I can only see the 2008 disclosure log?

Answer

At the time of your request the 2009 logs to which you refer were not available due to a technical refresh of the PSNI's official website. This has now been fully rolled out and all 2009 logs are available.

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

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.psni.police.uk

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

TABLE 1
PSNI OFFICERS CHARGED AND CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN
EACH CALENDAR YEAR SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PSNI UNTIL
11.12.08 FOR THE AREAS OF DUNGANNON, COOKSTOWN, OMAGH AND
STRABANE.

YEAR	NO. OF OFFICERS CONVICTED	RANGE OF OFFENCES
2001 (FROM 4.11.08)	NIL	DRINK DRIVING, CARELESS DRIVING, NO INSURANCE, NO DRIVING LICENCE, ASSAULT, THEFT, EXCESS SPEED, FAIL TO REPORT, FAIL TO REMAIN, DANGEROUS DRIVING, BREACH OF OCCUPANCY ORDER, BREACH OF NON MOLESTATION ORDER, DRUNK IN CHARGE OF FIREARM, FAIL TO PRODUCE DRIVING LICENCE, DRIVING UNACCOMPANIED, NO L PLATES, USE OF MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING, BREACH OF TRAFFIC SIGN
2002	4	
2003	4	
2004	3	
2005	5	
2006	2	
2007	3	
2008 (TO 11.12.08)	3	
TOTAL	24	

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.