



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03691

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: SERVING POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like details of the number of police officers currently serving in the PSNI convicted of criminal offences since the inception of the PSNI since 2001. I would also seek the total number of officers convicted in each rank along with the full range of categories of offences for which convicted. This has been refined to the number of police officers who had been convicted of criminal offences and a range of offences (including motoring offences) while still serving (they may not necessarily be serving now) where details have been reported to Professional Standards Department.

Answer

The PSNI replaced the Royal Ulster Constabulary on 4 November 2001.

Please refer to table 1 below for details requested.

Question 2

I would like details of the number of police officers Required to Resign or Dismissed (clarified as a consequence of formal disciplinary action) from the PSNI since its inception and the full range of categories for which this action was taken.

Answer

Since the inception of the PSNI on 4 November 2001 to the date of receipt of your request a total of 68 officers have been dismissed or required to resign as a consequence of appearing before formal misconduct panels.

Please refer to table 2 below for details requested.

The information supplied represents the incidents reported to the Professional Standards Department of the PSNI and does not include any minor offence that may have been dealt with at local management level.

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. just under 9,000.

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 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 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 this 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 .

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

TABLE 1

PSNI OFFICERS CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE SINCE THE
INCEPTION OF THE PSNI ON 4.11.01 AND REPORTED TO
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT

YEAR	RANKS	TOTAL	CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES FOR WHICH CONVICTED
4.11.01-31.12.01	Constable x 3 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 1	4	Drink driving related, careless driving, fail to report accident, fail to remain at the scene of accident, fail to stop after accident, excess speed, breach of occupancy order, breach of non molestation order, no insurance, no driving licence, dangerous driving, common assault, fail to give name and address of driver, obstruction, unlawful possession of ammuniton, no MOT, assault police, disorderly behaviour, theft, fail to produce driving documents, no driving licence, pervert the course of justice, breach of railway bye laws, indecent behaviour, harassment, L driver driving unaccompanied, not displaying L plates, use of mobile phone while driving, deception, drinking in public place, fraudulent use of number plate, drunk in charge of a loaded firearm, failure to use vehicle registration mark, failure to comply with the conditions of a firearms certificate, made indecent photographs of children, breach of Litter Order, smoking in work area, unlawful possession of a loaded firearm in a public place, attempted murder, breach of the Data Protection Act, possession of a blade, no firearms certificate, breach of traffic sign, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, insecure load, possession of class c drug, false accounting, not displaying R plates, permit no insurance, breach of Dogs Order, possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate, fraud, possession of firearm and ammuniton for unlawful purpose.
1.1.02-31.12.02	Chief Inspector x 1 Inspector x 3 Sergeant x 1 Constable x 14 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 9 Reserve Constable (Part Time) x 1	29	
1.1.03-31.12.03	Sergeant x 1 Constable x 27 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 6 Reserve Constable (Part Time) x 1	35	
1.1.04-31.12.04	Sergeant x 4 Constable x 26 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 5 Reserve Constable (Part Time) x 2	37	
1.1.05-31.12.05	Sergeant x 7 Constable x 20 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 6 Reserve Constable (Part Time) x 2	35	
1.1.06-31.12.06	Inspector x 1 Sergeant x 1 Constable x 43 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 6 Reserve Constable (Part Time) x 3	54	
1.1.07-31.12.07	Constable x 25 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 1 Constable (Part Time) x 2	28	
1.1.08-31.12.08	Inspector x 1 Constable x 31 Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 2 Constable (Part time) x 2	36	
1.1.09-30.9.09	Sergeant x 2 Constable x 18 Constable (Part time) x 1	21	
(The figures for this period may be subject to amendment)			

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.

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 AND OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN BOUND OVER TO KEEP THE PEACE.

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. THE FIGURES REPRESENT OFFICERS WHO WERE SERVING AT THE TIME OF CONVICTION. THEY MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE SERVING NOW.

NOTE 7. 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.

NOTE 8. 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.

TABLE 2

**DISCIPLINARY CHARGES ON WHICH PSNI OFFICERS WERE
DISMISSED OR REQUIRED TO RESIGN AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO
DISMISSAL FROM 4.11.2001 – 23.11.2009**

Breach of Royal Ulster Constabulary (Disciplinary and Disciplinary) Regulations 1988.	Number of charges
DISCIPLINE CODE	
Discreditable conduct – Contrary to Regulation 4 and paragraph 1 of Schedule 1	10
Criminal Conduct – Contrary to Regulation 4 and paragraph 17 of Schedule 1	3
Sub Total	13
Breach of Royal Ulster Constabulary (Conduct) Regulations 2000	
CODE OF CONDUCT	
Honesty and Integrity – contrary to paragraph 1 of Schedule 4	5
Criminal Offences – contrary to paragraph 9 of Schedule 4	7
General Conduct – contrary to paragraph 13 of Schedule 4	3
Sub Total	15
Breach of the Police Service of Northern (Conduct) Regulations 2003 as amended by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (Conduct)(Amendment) Regulations 2008	
Code of Ethics	
Article 1 Professional Duty	27
Article 2 Police Investigations	5
Article 3 Privacy and Confidentiality	1
Article 6 Equality	4
Article 7 Integrity	50
SubTotal	87

**NOTE 1. THE DATE ON WHICH THE MISCONDUCT OCCURRED WILL DICTATE THE
LEGISLATION USED.**

**NOTE 2. AN OFFICER MAY HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH A NUMBER OF BREACHES
OF DISCIPLINE AND RECEIVED A SANCTION OF DISMISSAL OR A REQUIREMENT
TO RESIGN AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DISMISSAL ON EACH CHARGE.**

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