



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01214

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: POLICE OFFICERS DISMISSED FROM SERVICE 2008/9

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

How many police officers have been dismissed from service in the last year and for what reasons. In clarification you asked for officers who have been 'Required to Resign' to be included.

Answer

The total number of Police personnel (including Student Officers) who have been dismissed or required to resign in the period 01/04/08-31/03/09 is **15**. This figure includes those who have been dismissed or required to resign as a consequence of procedures relating to Unsatisfactory Performance/Attendance, as well as disciplinary matters.

In the last financial year i.e. 2008/2009, 12 officers were dismissed or required to resign as a consequence of appearing before Misconduct Panels (formal discipline). All the officers were found to have breached the PSNI's Code of Ethics. Details are as follows:

8 officers - Code of Ethics 7.2 - Integrity
2 officers - Code of Ethics 1.10 - Professional Duty
1 officer - Code of Ethics 2.1 - Police Investigations
1 officer - Code of Ethics 7.1 - Integrity

The full Code of Ethics can be viewed at www.psni.police.uk/code_of_ethics_2008.pdf

Question 2

How many police officers in NI have a criminal record? What offences/charges have these been (clarified to mean the numbers of police officers who have been convicted of criminal offences, including motoring offences, while still serving where details have been reported to Professional Standards Department since the inception of the PSNI in 2001)?

Answer

The provision of this information is exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is already in the public domain. This information can be viewed by visiting the PSNI's Website at www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/about_departments/about_professional_standards.htm

The figures supplied in relation to questions 1 and 2 relating to officers who have been dismissed or required to resign as a consequence of formal disciplinary proceedings and officers convicted of criminal offences have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

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 9000 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

How many police officers In NI have taken a leave of absence in the last year and what have the reasons been? In clarification you asked for details of time taken by officers for reasons such as illness. Have there been periods of leave related to stress?

Answer

3221 Police Officers have had a period of absence due to illness in 2008/09, a reduction of 378 compared to the previous year. Since 2001/02 the PSNI has reduced sickness levels from an average of 27.65 working days to 8.86 working days in 2008/09. A significant reduction was achieved from 2007/08 to 2008/09, 11.22 average working days to 8.86 average working days respectively.

The reasons recorded for sickness absence in 2008/09 were;

- Cancer
- Eyes
- Headaches
- Heart
- Infections
- Injury
- Kidney
- Misc
- Musculoskeletal
- Operations
- Post Pregnancy
- Pregnancy Related
- Psychological
- Respiratory
- Skin

198 Officers had a period of stress related absence in 2008/09.

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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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