



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03336

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: SERVING POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED OF DANGEROUS DRIVING

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The number of serving police officers who have been convicted of Dangerous Driving in the last 5 years and also the number of police officers who have had their services terminated as a result of the conviction for Dangerous Driving?

Answer

From 20.10.2004 to 20.10.09 (date of receipt of your request), 5 police officers, who are currently serving with the PSNI, have been convicted of Dangerous Driving. Please note that convictions include adult cautions.

None of the officers still serving with the PSNI had their services dispensed with although 4 of the 5 officers await the outcome of the misconduct process.

In the same period a further 3 officers were convicted of dangerous driving but are no longer serving with the PSNI. Of these officers, the services of one was dispensed with after the officer appeared before a misconduct panel consequent upon a conviction for Dangerous Driving. A second officer appeared before a misconduct panel after being convicted of a number of motoring offences, including Dangerous Driving. This officer's employment with the PSNI was also terminated. The third officer left the PSNI prior to the completion of the misconduct process.

It should be noted that each case of alleged misconduct 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. Consequently one case cannot necessarily be compared to another.

The figures supplied have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for formal 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. 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 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 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.