



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02201

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** SMUGGLING OF CONTRABAND BY POLICE OFFICERS/STAFF

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many police officers or police staff have been investigated in relation to the smuggling of contraband (for example mobile phones, drugs, etc) into prisons or police cells? This may include an internal investigation or a police investigation.

Where possible can you provide details of each incident. Specifically, I would like:

- The name of the prison
- The date or dates
- What the items were
- How many prisoners were involved
- What action was taken by the police force (was there disciplinary action - a warning, suspension, sacking)
- Was there a criminal investigation? If so, can you provide details - was the person charged and /or convicted.

#### Answer

No police officers or police staff have been investigated in relation to the smuggling of contraband into prisons or police cells. Records within the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Professional Standards Department have been checked and we have determined that no police officers have been investigated for the reasons outlined in your request. District Command Units were also canvassed for information regarding police staff who have been investigated and this also produced negative results.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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