



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02024

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** SUSPENSIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS

### Request and Answer:

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 across a number of different categories 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.

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.

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 1

How many officers from your police force were suspended each year in the period 2005 to 2009?

### Answer

Fourteen suspensions were effected during 2005.  
Twenty four suspensions were effected during 2006  
Twenty one suspensions were effected during 2007  
Thirty six suspensions were effected during 2008  
Eleven suspensions were effected from 1.1.09 to 24.6.09 (date request received).

### Question 2

Can you breakdown the figures into:

- the reason for the suspension;
- the rank of the officer;
- the length of the suspension;
- the outcome of the suspension i.e. (i) dismissed; (ii) resigned; (iii) reinstated; (iv) remain suspended, for each year in the period 2005 to 2009?

### Answer.

#### 2005

- Alleged drink driving offences x 3 officers  
Alleged assault x 3 officers  
Alleged theft x 2 officers

Alleged pervert course of justice x 2 officers  
Alleged indecent assault x 1 officer  
Alleged disorderly behaviour x 1 officer  
Alleged dangerous driving x 1 officer  
Alleged possession of firearm with intent x 1 officer.

- b. Sergeant x 1  
Constable x 10  
Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 2  
Constable Part Time x 1
- c. One officer 133.3 weeks  
One officer 127.9 weeks  
One officer 119.9weeks  
One officer 109.4 weeks  
One officer 94.1 weeks  
One officer 93.1 weeks  
One officer 90.1 weeks  
One officer 88.4 weeks  
One officer 68.1 weeks  
One officer 52 weeks  
One officer 19.6 weeks  
One officer 15.7 weeks  
One officer 9.9 weeks  
One officer 7.1 weeks
- d. Dismissed from Service x 3 officers  
Required to resign as an alternative to dismissal x 6 officers  
Resigned prior to completion of disciplinary proceedings x 1 officer  
Contract not renewed prior to conclusion of disciplinary proceedings x 1 officer  
Reinstated x 3 officers (2 officers fined as a result of disciplinary proceedings and one case 'stayed').

## 2006

- a. Alleged drink driving offences x 6 officers.  
Alleged unauthorised disclosure of information x 4 officers  
Alleged theft x 3 officers  
Alleged assault x 2 officers  
Alleged sexual offences x 1 officer  
Alleged indecent assault x 1 officer  
Alleged possession of indecent images x 1  
Alleged pervert course of justice x 1  
Alleged submission of false documents x 1 officer  
Alleged harassment x 1 officer  
Alleged attempted murder x 1  
Alleged possession of controlled substance x 1 officer  
Alleged failure to properly investigate x 1 officer.
- b. Superintending rank x 1  
Inspecting rank x 2  
Sergeant x 1  
Constable x 15  
Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 2  
Constable Part Time x 3.
- c. One officer 175.7 weeks\*  
One officer 162.7 weeks\*  
One officer 161.7 weeks\*  
One officer 161 weeks  
Two officers 155.3 weeks  
One officer 133.9 weeks  
One officer 110.1 weeks  
One officer 102.9 weeks  
One officer 97.3 weeks  
One officer 96 weeks  
One officer 82.4 weeks  
One officer 76.1 weeks  
One officer 68.1 weeks

One officer 65.6 weeks  
One officer 63.9 weeks  
One officer 56.7 weeks  
One officer 45.6 weeks  
One officer 43.4 weeks  
One officer 27.1 weeks  
One officer 20.4 weeks  
One officer 19.4 weeks  
One officer 7.9 weeks  
One officer 7.6 weeks.

\* Currently suspended

- d. Dismissed from Service x 4 officers  
Required to resign as an alternative to dismissal x 3 officers  
Resigned prior to completion of disciplinary proceedings x 4 officers  
Contract not renewed prior to conclusion of disciplinary proceedings x 1 officer  
Reinstated x 8 officers (2 officers reduced in rank, 2 officers fined, 2 officers written warnings and 2 officers found not guilty as a result of disciplinary proceedings).  
Deceased x 1 officer  
Currently suspended x 3 officers

## 2007

- a. Alleged drink driving offences x 10  
Alleged assault x 4 officers  
Alleged forgery x 1 officer  
Alleged deception x 1 officer  
Alleged tax offences x 1 officer  
Alleged possession of controlled substance x 1 officer  
Alleged indecent assault x 1 officer  
Alleged perjury x 1 officer  
Alleged inappropriate association x 1 officer.

- b. Constable x 16  
Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 1  
Constable Part Time x 4.

- c. One officer 90.9 weeks\*  
Two officers 87.7 weeks\*  
One officer 87.5 weeks  
Two officers 82 weeks\*\*  
One officer 73.9 weeks  
One officer 63.3 weeks  
One officer 58.7 weeks  
One officer 56.1 weeks  
One officer 51.7 weeks  
One officer 51.1 weeks  
One officer 46 weeks  
One officer 42 weeks  
One officer 36.3 weeks  
One officer 32.3 weeks  
One officer 24.3 weeks  
One officer 16.7 weeks  
One officer 11.3 weeks  
One officer 6 weeks  
One officer 5.1 weeks.

\* Currently suspended.

\*\* One officer currently suspended.

- d. Dismissed from Service x 3 officers  
Required to resign as an alternative to dismissal x 8 officers  
Resigned prior to completion of disciplinary proceedings x 2 officers  
Reinstated x 4 officers (no disciplinary action taken against 3 officers.  
Disciplinary proceedings have not concluded in respect of the 4<sup>th</sup> officer).  
Currently suspended x 4 officers.

2008

- a. Alleged drink driving x 9 officers  
Alleged assault x 6 officers  
Alleged dangerous driving x 4 officers  
Alleged misuse of drugs x 3 officers  
Alleged theft x 3 officers  
Alleged possession of indecent images x 2 officers  
Alleged pervert course of justice x 1 officer  
Alleged abusive language x 1 officer  
Alleged harassment x 1 officer  
Alleged illegal possession of ammunition x 1  
Alleged disqualified driving x 1 officer  
Alleged non payment of fine x 1 officer  
Alleged possession of firearm with intent x 1 officer  
Alleged keeping a brothel x 1 officer  
Alleged fraud x 1 officer.
  
- b. Inspecting rank x 2  
Sergeant x 4  
Constable x 27  
Reserve Constable (Full Time) x 1  
Constable Part Time x 2.
  
- c. One officer 76 weeks\*  
One officer 73 weeks\*  
One officer 67.4 weeks  
One officer 66 weeks  
One officer 65 weeks\*  
One officer 63.9 weeks\*  
One officer 60.4 weeks\*  
One officer 59.9 weeks\*  
One officer 53.7 weeks\*  
One officer 48.9 weeks\*  
One officer 45.9 weeks  
One officer 41.3 weeks\*  
One officer 39.3 weeks\*  
One officer 34 weeks\*  
One officer 32.4 weeks  
One officer 32.3 weeks  
One officer 31.3 weeks\*  
One officer 31 weeks\*  
One officer 30.3 weeks\*  
One officer 28.1 weeks\*  
One officer 27.7 weeks\*  
One officer 26.9 weeks\*  
One officer 25.1 weeks  
Two officers 25 weeks  
One officer 24.9 weeks  
One officer 23.4 weeks  
Two officers 22.1 weeks  
One officer 13.1 weeks  
Two officers 12.1 weeks  
One officer 10 weeks  
One officer 6.9 weeks  
One officer 6.1 weeks  
One officer 1 week.
  
- \* Currently suspended.
  
- d. Dismissed from Service x 2 officers  
Required to resign as an alternative to dismissal x 3 officers  
Resigned prior to the completion of disciplinary proceedings x 7 officers  
Reinstated x 7 officers (1 officer fined as a result of disciplinary proceedings, 3 officers were not disciplined and the disciplinary process has not concluded in 3 cases).  
Currently suspended x 17 officers.

2009 (1.1.09 to 24.6.09)

- a. Alleged drink driving x 2 officers  
Alleged misuse of drugs x 2  
Alleged assault x 1 officer  
Alleged indecent assault x 1 officer  
Alleged sexual offences x 1  
Alleged theft x 1  
Alleged inconsistencies in evidence x 1 officer  
Alleged unauthorised disclosure of information x 1 officer  
Alleged fraud x 1 officer.
  - b. Inspecting rank x 1  
Sergeant x 2  
Constable x 8.
  - c. One officer 23.7 weeks  
One officer 12.3 weeks\*  
One officer 12.1 weeks\*  
One officer 11.7 weeks\*  
One officer 10.9 weeks\*  
One officer 10.1 weeks  
One officer 4.7 weeks\*  
One officer 4 weeks\*  
Two officers 3.9 weeks\*  
One officer .7 weeks\*
- \* Currently suspended.
- d. Reinstated x 2 officers (disciplinary proceedings have not yet concluded in either case)  
Currently suspended x 9 officers.

**Question 3**

Can you also tell me how many officers were suspended as a result of allegations of violence and/or physical assault for each year in the period 2005 to 2009?

**Answer.**

2005

Four Officers.

2006

Four officers.

2007

Five officers.

2008

Six officers.

2009 (1.1.09 to 24.6.09 – date of receipt of request)

Three officers.

The criminal and misconduct allegations reflect the more serious behaviour against each officer. Some officers will have been or are currently being investigated for other less serious offences associated with the same incident.

The suspensions reflect those effected in each of the years requested.

In each case where the officer is currently under suspension, that officer is either awaiting termination of criminal/ internal misconduct proceedings or the subject of a criminal/internal misconduct investigation. It should be noted that not all allegations result in criminal and/or internal misconduct proceedings and those that do are not always proven.

The length of time suspended for officers who are currently suspended has been calculated from the date of their suspension to 24.6.09 (the date of receipt of your request).

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to 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](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 @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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