



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01421

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Code of Ethics

Request and Answer:

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19 May 2010 concerning PSNI officers who have been charged under Article 1.10 (Professional Duty) of the Code of Ethics as contained in Schedule 4 of the PSNI (Conduct) Regulations 2000.

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full. The timeframe used is from 1 March 2003 to 31 March 2010.

Question 1

Since the inception of the PSNI Code of Ethics how many officers have been charged under Article 1.10 (Professional Duty) of the Code of Ethics as contained in Schedule 4 of the PSNI (conduct) Regs 2000.

Answer

The PSNI Code of Ethics was introduced in 2003. Between 1 March 2003 to 31 March 2010, 42 police officers were charged under Article 1.10 (Professional Duty) of the Code of Ethics.

Question 2

The rank of the officers involved.

Answer

The ranks of the officers involved were Reserve Constable, Constable, Sergeant and Inspector.

Question 3

The sanctions imposed. In table form if possible.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing the ranks of officers who received disciplinary sanctions:

Formal Disciplinary Sanctions since 2003 for Breach of Article 1.10 of the PSNI Code of Ethics	Rank
Dismissed	Constable x 5
Required to Resign	Sergeant x 1 Constable x 6 Reserve Constable x 1
Reduced in Rank	Sergeant x 1
Reduced in Pay	Constables x 6 Reserve Constable x 1
Fined	Constable x 11
Caution	Constable x 2
Reprimand	Constable x 8
Total	42

Question 4

The perceived community background of the officers involved

Answer

The perceived community background is detailed below:

55.84% Protestant

41.56% Catholic

2.60% Undetermined

It is worthy of note each case presented at a Misconduct Hearing 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.

The information requested in Question 4, was provided on request by the PSNI's Equality and Diversity Branch, as PSNI's Professional Standards Department do not hold this information. The remainder of the information requested has been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

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 letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our complaints procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of the Freedom of Information Team, Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review you remain dissatisfied in anyway with the handling of the request you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner 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.