



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00634

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers - Criminal Convictions

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

Could someone please indicate how many officers in the ranks of the PSNI have criminal convictions under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861?

Answer

Professional Standards Department records show that there are eighteen serving Police Officers who have convictions under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Question 2

Could this be broken up into ranks and sections of the Act?

Answer

Of the eighteen officers who have convictions the ranks involved are Sergeant, Constable and Reserve Constable. The sections of the Act involved are Grievous Bodily Harm, Section 18, Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, Section 47, and Common Assault, Section 47.

Police Officers are required, at all times, to carry out their duties in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The PSNI Code of Ethics can be found at:

www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/final_code_of_ethics

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall size of the police service i.e. from over 13,000 officers in 2001 to just over 8000 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.

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

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