



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-01651

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Officers Convicted of Criminal Offences

### Request and Answer:

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010, concerning police officers convicted of criminal offences (clarified where details have been reported to PSNI Professional Standards Department)

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information requested and I have decided to release the information you request.

### Question 1

In each of the last five years (Jan-Dec) how many of your serving Police Officers and PCSO's have been convicted of a criminal offence? Please supply figures for each year in the distinct categories of Police Officer and PCSO.

### Answer

The table below outlines the number of PSNI officers who have been convicted of a criminal offence and reported to PSNI, Professional Standards Department in each of the last five years. The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not employ PCSO's. These officers were serving at the time of conviction but may not be serving now.

Year	Number of Police Officers	Nature of offence
2005	33	Driving offences x 24 Theft x 1 Common Assault x 4 Disorderly behaviour x 1 Breach of Firearms (NI) Order x 1 Breach of Non-Molestation Order x 2
2006	53	Driving Offences x 39 Breach of The Data Protection Act x 2 Pervert the Course of Justice x 1 Drinking in Public Place x 1 Disorderly Behaviour x 1 Theft x 1 Harassment x 1 Breach of Non-Molestation Order x 2 AOABH x 3 Common Assault x 1 Fraud/Forgery x 1
2007	27	Driving Offences x 21 Breach of the Data Protection Act x 3 Common Assault x 1 Fraud/Forgery x 1 Theft x 1
2008	34	Driving Offences x 20 Attempted Murder x 1 AOABH x 3 Fraud/Forgery x 1 Breach of Firearms (NI) Order x 3 Drug offence x 1 Breach of Data Protection Act x 3 Harassment x 2
2009	26	Driving Offences x 16 Common assault x 2 Breach of The Data Protection Act x 2 Disorderly Behaviour x 1 Breach of Litter Order x 2 Fraud/Forgery x 2 Sexual Offence x 1

## Question 2

Please specify the type of offence the conviction resulted from using the categories outlined in the Home Office's National Standard for Incident Recording.

### Answer

PSNI Professional Standards Department do not utilise the Home Office National Standard for Incident Recording to categorise convictions. Column 3 of the table above outlines the type of offences for which officers were convicted for each year.

## Question 2.1

In each of the categories of conviction outlined above, how many of those convicted went to jail? (eg please specify if an officer went to jail for an assault)

### Answer

One police officer went to jail as a result of being convicted of attempted murder.

## Question 2.2

In each of these categories, how many of those who went to jail retained their jobs? (eg please specify if an officer jailed for an assault has retained their job)

### Answer

This officer did not retain their job.

## Question 2.3

In each of these categories, how many of those convicted were dismissed or required to resign from the job?

### Answer

The table below outlines the number of officers who were dismissed or required to resign by nature of offence:

Nature of Offence	Dismissed/Required to Resign
Driving Offences	21
Common Assault	4
Sexual Offence	1
Breach of Firearms (NI) Order	1
AOABH	2
Pervert Course of Justice	1
Theft	1
Fraud/Forgery	2
Drug Offence	1

## Question 2.4

In each of these categories, how many of those convicted remain in the job?

### Answer

Of the one hundred and seventy three officers convicted in this time-frame, thirty-four officers were dismissed or required to resign, twenty-one officers were permitted to leave the PSNI prior to the conclusion of misconduct proceedings, and misconduct proceedings had not yet concluded in relation to thirteen officers.

You withdrew Question 3 of your request on June 18, 2010.

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the average number of PSNI officers serving each year between 2005 and 2009, i.e. just over 9200.

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](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.