



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00986

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Dangerous Driving 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

How many police officers have been convicted in a Magistrates or District Judges Court with the offence of dangerous driving for each calendar year since 1 January 2001 – 28 February 2010.

#### Answer

Professional Standards Department records show that from 1 January 2001 to 28 February 2010, ten police officers have been convicted of Dangerous Driving. Please note that convictions include adult cautions.

#### Question 2

For each officer convicted in either of the courts mentioned at 1 above, please confirm the rank held by the convicted officer.

#### Answer

Of the ten officers who have convictions for dangerous driving the ranks involved are Inspector, Constable and Reserve Constable.

#### Question 3

For each officer convicted in either of the courts mentioned at 1 above, please confirm the penalty imposed upon that officer.

#### Answer

Two officers were fined and given penalty points on their licence, five officers were fined and disqualified for periods ranging between twelve to eighteen months, and three officers received an adult caution.

#### Question 4

For each officer convicted in either of the courts mentioned at 1 above, please confirm how many of those officers subsequently faced police misconduct hearings as a result of their convictions.

**Answer**

There have been five officers who have appeared before a misconduct panel as a result of their convictions for dangerous driving. In relation to the other five officers, two officers resigned prior to appearing at a misconduct hearing and two officers received an informal disciplinary sanction. One officer has still to appear before a misconduct hearing.

**Question 5**

Please confirm the sanctions imposed by a police misconduct panel for any such officer who appeared before it as a result of their conviction for dangerous driving.

**Answer**

Of the officers who appeared before a misconduct panel following a conviction of dangerous driving, three officers were fined, one officer was dismissed and one officer was required to resign.

It should be noted that each case of misconduct 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. Consequently one case cannot necessarily be compared to another.

The figures supplied have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for formal discipline relating to police officers.

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. under 9000 officers.

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.

