



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2010 01708

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: COMPLAINTS IN RELATION TO DNA HANDLING

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The number of complaints received by your force since January 1st 2005 concerning your force's handling of DNA.

Question 2

Please also detail what the complaint was about – i.e. what was the complainant alleging?

Answer

I can advise that the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland has statutory responsibility for investigating complaints made by members of the public.

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

Please find a web link to the office of Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland that may be of assistance to you:

www.policeombudsman.org

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.psni.police.uk

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