



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00028

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Members Involved in Domestic/Civil Abuse Cases

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to know how many members of the PSNI have been involved in domestic/civil abuse cases in the last three years? What disciplinary procedures were taken? Any additional information you can give me would be most helpful such as what areas these officers were from etc?

Clarification

I would like to know the number of PSNI Officers that have been involved in incidents outside of work, that have resulted in Police being called and may have resulted in charges being pressed or a warning issued to the Police Officer in question. If you could tell me what sort of incidents these were and give me a geographical breakdown it would be most helpful.

Answer

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

Information of this nature is not recorded centrally. Because of the way this data is recorded, the information requested will have to be extracted from a number of categories in an electronic data base as well as a manual check of files. It is estimated that to comply with your request would entail the examination in excess of 245 files. It is estimated that it would take in excess of 26 hours to examine the papers in question.

The rate of £25 per hour has been set by Regulation and therefore the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit".

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'.

Under our Section 16 obligation in the Act to provide advice and assistance I can advise that to keep

a refined request within cost and subject to any exemptions that may apply, Professional Standards Department can supply:

The number of off-duty PSNI officers who have been involved in domestic, public order and assault incidents in 2008 and 2009 where the police have been tasked to the scene, the geographical area where the incident occurred and any internal disciplinary sanction imposed on the officer. The figures would not include student officers who come under the remit of the Police College until attested as Constables.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this decision please do not hesitate to contact me 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. 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.