



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00121

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Convicted Of Drink/Drug Driving

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. The information provided to you has been taken from records held by Professional Standards Department of PSNI which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request the latest information pertaining to the number of PSNI officers who have been convicted of (1) drink driving and (2) drug driving since the formation of the force, including thus far in 2010. I also request information as to each officer's sex and rank and whether they had previously been convicted of the aforementioned offences.

Furthermore I request a breakdown detailing how these officers have been internally disciplined (i.e. asked to resign, sacked, fired etc) or that it is indicated that an officer is yet to face internal disciplinary procedures.

Answer

Year	Rank	Sex	Sanctions	Previous conviction for drink/drug driving offence
01/11/01 – 31/12/01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2002	1 Inspector 1 Sergeant 6 Constables 5 Reserve Constables 1 Part-Time Constable	14 Males	3 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 1 officer reduced in pay 5 officers fined 3 officers reprimanded 2 officers received a caution	3 officers
2003	10 Constables 3 Reserve Constables	12 Males 1 Female	4 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 1 officer required to resign 2 officers reduced in pay	2 officers

			6 officers fined	
2004	1 Sergeant 9 Constables 1 Part-Time Constable	11 Males 1 Female	3 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 9 officers fined	3 officers
2005	2 Sergeants 4 Constables 2 Reserve Constables 1 Part-Time Constable	9 Males	3 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 1 officer dismissed 3 officers reduced in pay 2 officers fined	1 officer
2006	14 Constables 4 Reserve Constables 1 Part-Time Constable	17 Males 2 Females	2 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 1 officer dismissed 2 officers required to resign 9 officers reduced in pay 5 officers fined	1 officer
2007	6 Constables 1 Part-Time Constable	6 Males 1 Female	2 officers dismissed 5 officers required to resign	3 officers
2008	5 Constables 2 Part-Time Constables	5 Males 2 Females	3 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 2 officers dismissed 2 officers required to resign	1 officer
2009	1 Sergeant 2 Constables	3 Males	2 officers left prior to disciplinary hearing 1 officer disciplinary proceedings pending	Nil

The above table relates to officers who have been convicted of drink driving since the formation of the PSNI. It is worthy of note that in May 2006 the Deputy Chief Constable directed that any officer convicted of drink driving would expect to be dismissed or required to resign. All officers who have been detected of drink driving and appeared before an internal disciplinary hearing since this direction, have received a disciplinary sanction of dismissal or requirement to resign.

There are no officers who have been convicted of drug driving offences since the formation of the PSNI.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.