



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00198

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers Arrested In Foyle District

Request and Answer:

Question

The number of serving PSNI officers arrested in connection with a criminal offence in the Foyle PSNI district in 2009. Can the details of each case include the alleged offence and age of any officers arrested?

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

The system on which all arrests are recorded would not be able to provide this information. All police officers are created as nominals on the system, for example "Officer PC Blogs, Musgrave Street PSNI Station". Every occurrence that officer is linked to will appear in that nominal record. When a police officer reports any matter as a victim (eg a burglary at his home address, where his/her address must be recorded) he/she is created on the system as a new nominal; no reference is made to PSNI and that person's occupation should not be recorded. This also applies if the police officer is a suspect/arrested. This is done for security reasons as the information is shared with other organisations.

Where the circumstances leading to the arrest of a police officer amounts to suspected wrongdoing or Misconduct, the circumstances will be reported and procedures contained within the PSNI Code of Ethics complied with. This may lead to any one of a series of actions including investigation by Professional Standards Department or referral to the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. For your information I have provided the following links to the website of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and the PSNI Professional Standards Department. The Professional Standards website includes a link to the PSNI Code of Ethics 2008.

<http://www.policeombudsman.org/index.cfm>

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/departments/about_professional_standards.htm

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.