



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00546

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Disciplined for Allegations of Domestic Abuse

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

The number of police officers formally disciplined (i.e. appeared before a misconduct hearing) in relation to complaints of domestic abuse?

Answer

A search of our records revealed that two male police officers were formally disciplined (i.e. appeared before a misconduct hearing in relation to allegations of domestic abuse) one in 2007 and one in 2008. One officer was Required to Resign and one officer was Dismissed.

Question 2

The number of police officers charged for offences related to allegations of domestic abuse?

Answer

Professional Standards Department hold information regarding 5 male police officers who were charged for offences related to allegations of domestic abuse. Two of these officers were charged in 2007 and three officers were charged in 2008. (Professional Standards Department have included charges relating to Breach of Non Molestation Orders). Two officers left the PSNI prior to the outcome of any criminal proceedings.

Question 3

The number of police officers convicted of domestic abuse?

Answer

In the last three calendar years there were three male officers who received criminal convictions for incidents involving Domestic Abuse. One officer in 2007, and two in 2008.

Question 4

Of the total number of police officers convicted of domestic abuse, how many are still employed

within the PSNI?

Answer

One serving male officer has been convicted at court and is suspended awaiting the outcome of a formal disciplinary hearing.

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

It should be noted that each case 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 the commission and the potential impact will dictate the level of action to be pursued and the misconduct sanction ultimately imposed.

Whilst the service takes extremely seriously any wrong doing the number of cases must be put into context of the overall number of PSNI officers i.e. just over 8000.

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 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.