



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00669

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers - Positive Drug Tests

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information requested and I have decided to release the information you request.

Question 1

Number of Police Officers (serving not applicants to the Police) who tested positive (through internal procedures i.e. random sampling or job application or similar) for Class A, B, or C drugs in the last five years.

Answer

Four.

Question 2

Number of those Police Officers at 1 who were charged with the offence of Misconduct in a Public Office

Answer

None of the four police officers were charged with the offence of Misconduct in Public Office.

Question 3

The rationale for those at 1 for either charging or not charging them with the offence of Misconduct in Public Office.

Answer

No information held.

The PSNI has robust measures in place to deal with any member of staff who uses illegal drugs. Our policy outlining how we deal with the issue of substance misuse can be viewed at ; www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_1108_substance_misuse.pdf

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall number of PSNI officers i.e. under 8000 officers.

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 the Freedom of Information Team on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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.