



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00192

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Officers on Retirement Facing Disciplinary Action

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information requested and the answer to your question is as follows:

Question 1

The number of officers within your force who have retired in the last three years (calendar years 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2009) who were at the time of their retirement facing disciplinary action.

If possible please provide details of the disciplinary action facing the officers in question.

Answer

PSNI cannot provide details of the number of officers who were at the time of their retirement facing disciplinary action. This is due to the fact that any investigation would have been ongoing and therefore the outcome of these investigations would have not reached conclusion.

However, we can supply the number of officers facing disciplinary investigation, who retired in the last three years, (by retired it is understood to mean retirement due to length of service or under the Patton Severance Scheme).

A search of our records revealed that 21 police officers retired whilst under investigation by Professional Standards Department. It should be noted that each case is considered on its own merits including circumstances of the case, the Public Interest, the interests of the PSNI, the potential outcome should the case be proven, and the welfare of the officer concerned.

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

Further information on officers leaving the PSNI whilst under investigation can be accessed through the Publication Scheme of the Police Service of Northern Ireland website at:
www.psni.police.uk/about_professional_standards.

These statistics have been put on the publications scheme since 2008 and are updated on an annual

basis. You will also find further information on the Northern Ireland Policing Board website which can be found at:

www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

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.