



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-03507

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Officers Suspended or Sacked

### Request and Answer:

### Question

Under the FOI Act, can I please find out the following:

1. How many police officers have been suspended from duty in Strabane in the past five years?
  - i) How many officers have been sacked from Strabane PSNI in the past five years?
  - ii) What were they suspended or sacked for?
  - iii) How long was the officer/officers suspended for and were they paid during that period?
2. Can I get the same information for Omagh PSNI Station please?
3. Has any officer currently employed at Strabane Station have a criminal record or ever been convicted of a crime?
  - i) If so, what was the crime?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450. Some of the information you have requested is held by our Professional Standards Department. The remainder is held on a central system but responsibility for the retrieval process, falls to the local District. In both instances a manual trawl of records would be required. The cumulative estimated total time required by both areas of responsibility exceeds the time limit as outlined above.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

In compliance with Section 16 of the Act I have considered whether I can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine your request to bring it under the cost limit. If you were to restrict your request to a shorter time scale, or alternatively omit one question, it may be possible to retrieve the type of information you seek.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](mailto: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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.