



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-01400

Keyword: Finance

Subject: Police Officers Suspended on Full Pay

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full. The information provided to you has been taken from records held by the Professional Standards Department of PSNI which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. The information regarding the salaries paid to the police officers under suspension has been supplied by Central Pay Branch of PSNI.

Question 1

As of May 17 2010 how many of your force's officers were suspended on full pay?

Answer

There were twenty three police officers suspended on full pay on 17 May 2010.

Question 2

Please also provide me with a breakdown showing the number of officers suspended in each rank of your force as of May 17 2010?

Answer

Superintendent x 1
Sergeant x 3
Constable x 18
R/Constable x 1

Question 3

On the list please show the date (date/month/year) that each officer suspended as of May 17 2010 from duty on full pay, and the amount of money paid while he/she was suspended?

Answer

1 x officer – 10 October 2004
1 x officer – 27 September 2007
1 x officer – 19 October 2007
1 x officer - 9 January 2008

1 x officer – 17 July 2008
1 x officer - 22 September 2008
1 x officer – 12 December 2008
1 x officer – 18 December 2008
1 x officer – 31 March 2009
1 x officer – 03 April 2009
1 x officer - 09 April 2009
1 x officer – 22 May 2009
1 x officer – 28 May 2009
1 x officer – 14 August 2009
1 x officer – 16 October 2009
1 x officer – 17 November 2009
1 x officer – 20 November 2009
1 x officer – 18 December 2009
1 x officer – 19 January 2010
1 x officer – 22 January 2010
1 x officer – 29 January 2010
1 x officer – 02 April 2010
1 x officer – 21 April 2010

The total salary paid to these officers was £1055,108.77.
(figures supplied by the PSNI's Central Pay Branch).

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

In each case the officer under suspension is either awaiting termination of criminal/misconduct proceedings or the subject of a criminal/misconduct investigation.

The decision to suspend an officer is only taken in exceptional circumstances after all other options, including 'repositioning' has been considered.

Considerations include:

- (i) The nature and seriousness of the alleged action of the individual(s), including any apparent aggravating or mitigating factors;
- (ii) The strength of evidence or nature of the investigation;
- (iii) The public interest and that of the Police Service;
- (iv) The reputation of the PSNI and the effect on public confidence;
- (v) Whether effective investigation of the allegation may be compromised if the officer remains in post;
- (vi) The nature of the current post held, and alternative posts, and the potential risk to the individual, public, colleagues or operations if the officer is not suspended;
- (vii) The likely outcome of a conviction in court or of a finding against the officer at a disciplinary hearing;
- (viii) The impact on organisational efficiency.

Pay and allowances of suspended officers is governed by either Regulations 36(5), 59 and Schedule 7 of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Regulations 1996 or Regulations 23(4), 36 and Schedule 3 of the

Police Service of Northern Ireland Regulations 2005 depending when the suspension was effected. In summary a suspended officer receives full salary and allowance entitlement while suspended unless detained, in pursuance of a sentence of a court, in a prison or other institution to which the Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953) applies or is in custody (whether in prison or elsewhere) between conviction by a court and sentence, or has absented himself/herself from duty and whose whereabouts are unknown to the Chief Constable. Full details of the Regulations may be viewed by visiting website www.ppsi.gov.uk.

Whilst the PSNI takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall size of the PSNI of just 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 letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our complaints procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information Team, Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review you remain dissatisfied in anyway with the handling of the request you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner 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 all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously 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.