



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-02166  
**Keyword:** Human Resources  
**Subject:** Officers Convicted

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

How many officers have been caught for speeding and been let off in the past 2 years?

#### 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.

In order to ascertain the number of 'Notice of Intended Prosecution's' received by Safety Camera Scheme as a result of police vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit tickets would have to be manually trawled for the 2 year period. Fixed Penalty processing Centre (FPPC) would also require a list of every operational 'on duty' vehicle registration mark, associated to the NI PSNI Estate used over those 2 years.

The FPPC's computer system's method of 'block tracing' is based on Vehicle Record/Mark Identification details and not Driver/Employment characteristics. Although this exercise could be undertaken it would be very labour intensive as there would be over 63,730 cases for the period requested. To manually trawl each offence to discover the profession of each driver would take approx 2 mins per offence – this time consuming process would take approx 2124.5 hrs to collate which is in excess of the appropriate fees limit as determined by the Secretary of State at £450 (18 hours)

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have also considered whether we can be of any assistance in terms of helping you refine this part of your request to bring it under the cost limit however the nature

and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below a response from Professional Standards Department regarding the other questions submitted which was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

### **Question**

How many officers have been convicted of drink driving in the last 2 years?

### **Answer**

Four police officers were convicted of drink driving in the last two years (1st August 2008 - 31st July 2010). Three of the officers resigned prior to a misconduct hearing taking place. One officer is currently suspended and is due before a misconduct panel, which is scheduled to take place later this year.

### **Question**

How many officers have been convicted of violent crimes in the last 2 years?

### **Answer**

Four police officers were convicted of a violent crime in the last two years (1st August 2008 - 31st July 2010). Three of the officers appeared before a misconduct panel, and the sanctions imposed were that two of the officers were Required to Resign and one was Fined. The officer that was fined is still a serving police officer. Another officer resigned before a misconduct hearing took place.

It should be noted that every breach of discipline is examined on an individual basis to determine the level and nature of the offence committed by an officer. The seriousness of the case, the circumstances surrounding its commission and its potential impact will dictate the level of misconduct sanction ultimately imposed by PSNI, Professional Standards Department.

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the average number of PSNI officers serving each year between 1st August 2008 and 31st July 2010 i.e. just over 8000.

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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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