



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-02969
Keyword: Road Policing
Subject: On Duty Officers Speeding

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Can I get answers to the following questions as a Freedom of Information request. I'd like the figures as up to date in 2010 as possible.

How many on-duty PSNI officers were caught speeding while on-duty in Northern Ireland between 2008 and 2010?

- I understand there is an exemption for emergency vehicles found speeding under Article 42 of the Road Traffic Regulation Order 1997.

But I would like both figures for PSNI vehicles deemed to be speeding both:

- Under the exemption
- And in cases where the circumstances did not comply with the exemption.

Answer

The PSNI's system for recording detections does not include the occupation of the offender. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to police officers speeding whilst on duty.

The number of cancellations processed due to police vehicles providing an emergency response is as follows:

In 2008 there were 225 detections
In 2009 there were 114 detections
In 2010 there were 82 detections

If a police vehicle is identified from a camera detection, a Notice of Intention to Prosecute is sent to the relevant Commander to identify the officer involved. If it is decided that the exemption does not apply, the individual is then dealt with in the same manner as a member of the public. The

recording system does not record any occupational details of offenders. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to the number of incidents where the circumstances did not comply with the exemption.

Question 2

How many PSNI officers were disciplined by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department for speeding off-duty between 2008 and 2010?

Answer

An officer receiving a fixed penalty notice is not required to declare this fact (except when such a notice would result in the removal of an officer's driving licence upon accumulation of 12 penalty points) and consequently no central records are maintained by the PSNI. There is, however, a requirement for an officer who is convicted of a criminal offence, including motoring offences, to report that fact.

Professional Standards Department hold details of officers who have received a criminal conviction for motoring offences. Five PSNI officers were disciplined by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department for speeding whilst off-duty between 2008 and 2010. Three PSNI officers received a Superintendent's Written Warning, one officer received Management Discussion and one officer received advice and guidance.

It should be noted that every disciplinary case is examined on an individual basis to determine the level and nature of misconduct of the officer and the extent to which the PSNI's Code of Ethics has been breached. The seriousness of the offence, the circumstances surrounding its commission and its potential impact will dictate the level of action to be pursued and the sanction ultimately imposed.

Question 3

How many speeding tickets were issued to PSNI officers speeding both on and off duty between 2008 and 2010?

Answer

The PSNI's system for recording detections does not include the occupation of the offender. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to speeding tickets issued to PSNI officers speeding on and off duty.

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.psnipolice.uk

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