



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00299

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Criminal Activity within PSNI

Request and Answer:

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by the Police Service of Northern Ireland concerning misconduct/criminal issues involving police officers.

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.

Question 1

How many police officers in your force are currently suspended? Please provide the range of offences these officers are alleged to have committed.

Answer

At the date of your request there were twenty-two suspended PSNI officers. The range of offences these officers are alleged to have committed are as follows:

Motoring offences, inappropriate behaviour towards colleagues, inappropriate language and behaviour, drug offence, neglect of duty, sexual offence, assault, forgery, misconduct in public office, inconsistencies in evidence, breach of Firearms (NI) Order.

Where the officer is currently under suspension, that officer is either awaiting termination of criminal/internal misconduct proceedings or the subject of a criminal/internal misconduct investigation. It should be noted that not all allegations result in criminal and/or internal misconduct proceedings and those that do are not always proven.

Question 2

How many police officers have been subject to Misconduct Hearings in each of the last three years? Please provide the range of offences these officers are alleged to have committed.

Answer

The table below outlines the number of police officers who have been subject to Misconduct Hearings in each of the last three years and the range of offences these officers are alleged to have committed. These allegations may not have been proven at Hearing.

2008	Range of Alleged Offences
57 police officers	Failure in investigations Domestic incident Misuse of Police information Failure to attend work promptly/non-attendance at court Motoring offences Failure to keep accurate police records Failure to support their colleagues in the execution of their duties Inappropriate/unacceptable behaviour towards a police colleague Excessive force when dealing with members of the public Failure to register business interest Drug offence Sexual offence Theft Failure to ensure the Health & Safety of a training environment Unfit for duty Use of inappropriate language/behaviour towards members of the public Involved in an off-duty disturbance Failure to protect the welfare and safety of a member of the public Making false and misleading entries in a selection process application form Failure to avail of Service approved accommodation Inappropriate handling of police equipment /property Possession of excess ammunition Inappropriate use of the internet
2009	Range of alleged offences
37 police officers	Failure in investigations Failure to keep accurate police records Motoring offences Inappropriate off-duty behaviour Theft Drug offence Assault Unacceptable use of the internet Domestic violence incident Inappropriate discharge of firearm Inappropriate use of police systems Breach of Firearms (NI) Order Making fraudulent finance claims Excessive force towards member of public Using unauthorised police equipment Failure to inform authorities of minor road traffic incident in police vehicle Mislead authorities regarding issue of a speeding ticket Failure to act with integrity during the process of bringing an offender to justice Providing inaccurate account of events to a supervisor Failure to act with honesty during internal selection process

	Unfit for duty Bound over to keep the peace
2010	Range of alleged offences
32 police officers	Motoring offences Failure in investigations Assault Contravention of non-molestation order Off-duty disorderly behaviour Fraudulent mileage/overtime claims Failure to supervise and ensure officer carried out his professional duties Inappropriate use/disclosure of police information Threatening behaviour towards police colleagues Fitness for duty Inappropriate language and behaviour towards member of the public Misconduct in Public office Theft Drunk and disorderly Recorded inaccurate information on a police statement Made false entries on police forms/accessed police computer for non police purposes Excessive use of force towards member of the public

Question 3

How many police officers were dismissed following Misconduct Hearings in each of the last three years? Please provide the range of offences these officers committed.

Answer

Please see the table below:

2008	Range of Offences
13 officers were dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal	Motoring convictions Theft Sexual offences Drug offence Unauthorised use of police systems Failings in police investigations Off-duty domestic incident
2009	Range of Offences
6 officers were dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal	Drunk in charge of a firearm Failure to supervise/on-duty motoring offences Assault Making fraudulent finance claims Failings in police investigations
2010	Range of Offences
6 officers were dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal	Failings in police investigations Theft Motoring offences Misconduct in public office Accessed police computer for non police purposes/falsified documents Fitness for duty

Question 4

How many police officers have been convicted of criminal offences in each of the last three years? Please provide the range of offences these officers committed.

Answer

The table below outlines the number of PSNI officers who have been convicted of a criminal offence and reported to PSNI, Professional Standards Department in each of the last three years. These officers were serving at the time of conviction but may not be serving now.

Year	Number of officers	Criminal Convictions
2008	29	Motoring Offences Attempted Murder Assault Breach of Firearms (NI) Order Drug offence Theft Sexual offences Harassment Fraud
2009	26	Motoring Offences Common assault Breach of The Data Protection Act Disorderly Behaviour Breach of Litter Order Fraud/Forgery Sexual Offence Breach of Non Molestation Order
2010	18	Motoring Offences Offences against the Person Sexual offence

It should be noted that police officers might leave the Service prior to the conclusion of formal disciplinary proceedings, and that a formal misconduct hearing may not have taken place in the same year as an offence being committed.

Question 5

How many police officers have been convicted of drink driving in each of the last three years?

Answer

The table below outlines the number of police officers who were serving at the time of conviction for drink driving, but may not be serving now.

Year	Number of officers
2008	6
2009	3
2010	2

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

Whilst the PSNI takes seriously any wrongdoing by a police officer, the number of suspensions must be put into context of the overall size of the PSNI i.e. an average of 8000 officers during 2008 to 2010.

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 email.

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.