



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03140

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Disciplinary Cases Surrounding Corruption

Request and Answer:

Question 1

A yearly breakdown of the number and type of allegations recorded.

Question 2

A yearly breakdown of allegations finalised and how dealt with.

Question 3

A yearly breakdown of allegations not proceeded with and how dispensed.

Question 4

A profile of those complained about i.e Police (rank) support staff (grade).

Question 5

Also if possible a breakdown of those officers / support staff who whilst under investigation resigned or retired prior to the matter being finalised. I would also appreciate it if you could tell me what alterations if any your force has made with regards counter corruption strategies and if such alterations have been beneficial to not only the force but the community it serves.

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 (18 hours).

Professional Standards Department categorise investigations into police officers' alleged misconduct by potential breach of the PSNI Code of Ethics. Therefore to retrieve details of the nature of the investigation, the number of officers involved and their rank would require the examination of the file. PSD have estimated to retrieve the information you are seeking would involve the examination of

around 1000 files, taking in excess of 125 hours and massively exceeding the cost limit.

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'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. Unfortunately the nature and structure of the information requested makes this impossible.

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.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information relative to your request which is already available in the public domain. 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. Please see below;

The PSNI is governed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 – regulation 2. This can be viewed at www.opsi.gov.uk. The standards set out in these Regulations are replicated into the PSNI Code of Ethical Standards required of Police Officers. The current PSNI Code of Ethics may be viewed by visiting the website using the following link; www.psni.police.uk/code_of_ethics_2008.

Previous request F-2011-00016 outlines Professional Standards Department investigations since 2006, categorised by breach of the code of ethics, and also details officers who left the Service whilst under investigation. This can be accessed using the following link; http://www.psni.police.uk/psni_investigations.pdf

The independent public body, Northern Ireland Policing Board is responsible for ensuring an accountable and impartial Police Service. Chapters 5 and 6 of it's 'Human Rights Annual Report' <http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/index/publications/human-rights-publications.htm> contains information relating to your request. These reports are published from 2005 to 2010.

You may also be interested in the following PSNI Policy "Integrity and Professional Standards"; http://www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_1107.pdf

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.

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.psnj.police.uk

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