



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02431

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Formal Misconduct Hearings

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

I would like to request the number of PSNI officers currently attached to B District who have appeared before a formal misconduct hearing from 2007 to present, if possible broken down to each year.

Answer

The table below outlines the number of officers currently attached to B District who appeared before a formal misconduct hearing from 2007 to the date of your request.

Year	Number of officers
2007	1 officer
2008	3 officers
2009	*3 officers
2010	*2 officers
2011	1 officer
Total	9 officers

* one officer appeared before a misconduct hearing twice, in 2009 and 2010.

Question 2

I would also like to know how many of these officers were posted under the South Belfast Area Command when they were subject to the measures, if possible also broken down into each year.

Question 3

I would like to know what were the reasons for each individual disciplinary proceeding for those from the South Belfast Area Command.

Question 4

I would also like to know the disciplinary sanction in each case.

Answer

The PSNI is governed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. The standards set out in these regulations are replicated into the PSNI Code of Ethical Standards and can be viewed at www.psni.police.uk/code_of_ethics_2008. Officers are charged at a Formal Misconduct Hearing according to the Article(s) of the PSNI Code of Ethics that were potentially breached.

Ballynafeigh, Lislea Drive, Donegall Pass, Lisburn Road and Musgrave Street stations are located in South Belfast Area Command. The table below outlines the number of officers who were attached to these stations at the time of hearing, the reason for the misconduct proceedings and the sanction imposed;

Year	Alleged Misconduct Breach	Disciplinary Sanction
2007	Integrity	Reduction in pay
2008	Integrity	Reprimand
2008	Detained persons	Caution
2009	Professional Duty	Reduced in pay
2009	Professional Duty x 2	Fined x 2
2010	Integrity	Charge withdrawn
Total		6 officers

Whilst the PSNI takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases should be put into context of the number of officers attached to B District, i.e., around 500 officers.

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.psni.police.uk

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