



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03363

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Internet Misuse

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

The number of staff who have been recorded accessing unauthorised websites in the following categories:

- i) online betting
- ii) pornography
- iii) unauthorised downloading
- iv) shopping
- v) gaming
- vi) social networks

Please provide this data for each of the last 3 calendar years (2009, 2010, 2011 to date).

Answer

In 2009 one employee was recorded as frequenting unauthorised websites. Access was recorded to categories i, iii, iv, v and vi as listed.

PSNI "unauthorised websites" are defined as websites that cannot be accessed from a PSNI computer unless there is an official business requirement. Since 2009, additional commercial web-browsing security tools have been deployed to automatically restrict such access by default. These systems are constantly being updated to categorise and block all undesirable sites. This technology is supplemented by PSNI's overarching policy for Web Browsing that allows Police Officers and Staff the ability to browse sites that are deemed work related.

Question 2

The number of visits to unauthorised websites in the five categories above.

Answer

As described above, unauthorised websites cannot be visited from PSNI computers as these are

blocked by the ICT security systems.

The following information outlines the number of visits this individual made to unauthorised websites prior to the implementation of more stringent restrictions by PSNI. The PSNI categorisation corresponds with the categories outlined in your request as follows:

- i) gambling = 6 visits (9 minutes)
- ii) pornography = 0
- iii) downloads = 6 visits (48 minutes)
- iv) shopping = 42 visits (42 minutes)
- v) games = 2 visits (2 minutes)
- vi) Chat = 1 visit (1 minute)

Question 3

The disciplinary action taken against the staff listed in 1).

Answer

At a formal misconduct hearing this officer received a reprimand.

Question 4

a) The total number of visits to [ww.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) on the force's computers, and b) the number of unique visitors to the site.

Answer

Facebook is not an authorised website and therefore we have no recorded visits. PSNI do have a Facebook presence but this is managed by authorised users on dedicated computers.

Question 5

If possible, please provide the total amount of time spent accessing www.facebook.com.

Answer

No unauthorised time has been spent visiting www.facebook.com. It is not possible to determine how much time Officers have been managing the PSNI Facebook pages.

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.