



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00404

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Misconduct Or Alleged Misconduct

### 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 and the answers to your questions are as follows.

#### Question 1

The number of police officers suspended for misconduct or alleged misconduct from the start of 2005 to the end of 2010, broken down into each year's figures.

#### Answer

Fourteen suspensions were effected during 2005  
Twenty-four suspensions were effected during 2006  
Twenty-one suspensions were effected during 2007  
Thirty-six suspensions were effected during 2008  
Nineteen suspensions were effected during 2009  
Nineteen suspensions were effected during 2010

In each case the officer under suspension is either awaiting termination of criminal/misconduct proceedings or the subject of a criminal/misconduct investigation. Not all investigations result in criminal /misconduct proceedings and not all criminal/misconduct proceedings result in findings of guilt.

#### Question 2

A breakdown of the reason for each suspension and any other action taken against the officers involved - including the outcome of any criminal proceedings.

#### Answer

The table below outlines the reasons for suspension by year, including any subsequent court and misconduct proceedings

<b>YEAR OF SUSPENSION</b>	<b>REASON FOR SUSPENSION</b>	<b>COURT PROCEEDINGS</b>	<b>RESULT OF MISCONDUCT HEARING</b>
2005	Sexual offence	PPS directs no prosecution.	Reduced in pay
2005	Pervert course of justice	Unknown	None officer resigned
2005	Assault	Fine	Required to Resign
2005	Assault	Fine	Fined
2005	Drink driving	case dismissed	Required to resign
2005	Theft	not guilty	proceedings stayed
2005	AOABH	Community service	required to resign
2005	Drink Driving offences	Disqualified/Fined	Required to resign
2005	Disorderly behaviour	bound over	Reduced in pay
2005	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2005	Driving offences	Disqualified	Required to resign
2005	Theft	Conditional discharge	Dismissed
2005	Drink driving offences	Suspended sentence	Dismissed
2005	Possession of firearm with intent	Not known	None officer resigned
2006	Possession of controlled substance.	Fined	Required to resign
2006	Excess alcohol	Not known	None officer resigned
2006	Theft	Not guilty	None, Informal sanction
2006	Unauthorised disclosure of information	PPS directs no prosecution	Reduced in rank
2006	unauthorised disclosure of information	PPS directs no prosecution	None, Informal sanction
2006	unauthorised disclosure of information	PPS directs no prosecution	None, Informal sanction
2006	Breach of non molestation order/ Breach of occupancy order/Assault	Suspended sentence	None officer resigned
2006	Failure to investigate	None - discipline only	Dismissed
2006	Sexual offence	Not guilty	None
2006	Drink driving	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2006	Sexual offence	Not Guilty	None officer resigned
2006	Theft	Suspended sentence	Officer resigned
2006	Sexual offence	Not known	officer dismissed prior to court proceedings
2006	Theft	charge withdrawn	None
2006	Assault and making off without payment	charges withdrawn	Reduced in pay

2006	Attempt to pervert course of justice	Proceedings stayed	no case to answer.
2006	Submission of false documents	Adult caution	Reduced in pay
2006	Harassment	Suspended sentence	Reduced in rank
2006	Attempted murder	Imprisonment	Officer resigned
2006	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Dismissed
2006	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Dismissed
2006	Excess alcohol/ Dangerous driving	Disqualified/Fined	Required to resign
2006	Unauthorised disclosure of information	None	None
2006	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2007	Association with criminal	None misconduct only	Dismissed
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2007	Forgery	Not guilty	None
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2007	Deception/ no insurance	Fined	Required to resign
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Dismissed
2007	Tax offences	PPS directed no prosecution	None
2007	Driving whilst unfit	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2007	Excess alcohol	Not known	Dismissed on other matters
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Required to resign
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2007	Assault	Adult caution directed by PPS	Fine
2007	Possession of class A drug	Not known	Required to resign prior to criminal proceedings
2007	Driving whilst unfit/dangerous driving	Disqualified	Resigned prior to hearing
2007	Breach of non-molestation order	Fined	Reprimand
2007	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	Resigned prior to hearing
2007	Sexual offence	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court
2007	Threat to kill and assault	PPS direct no prosecution	None
2007	AOABH Driving whilst unfit	Not known	None officer resigned
2007	Perjury	Not known	None Officer resigned
2008	Theft	Fined	Required to resign
2008	Driving offences	Pending	Pending
2008	Harassment	Adult caution	Informal sanction
2008	Common assault	Fined	Fined
2008	1.Unlawful possession of ammunition 2.Harassment	Fined and suspended sentence	None officer resigned

2008	Excess alcohol and drunk in charge of a firearm	Not known	Dismissed prior to court proceedings
2008	Excess alcohol	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court
2008	Inappropriate off-duty behaviour	None	Required to resign on another matter
2008	Excess Alcohol	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court
2008	Assault and excessive use of force	Not known	Required to resign on another matter
2008	Driving offences	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court
2008	Sexual offences	Pending	Pending
2008	Excess alcohol	Not known	Officer resigned
2008	non payment of fines	Misconduct only	Dismissed
2008	Sexual offences	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court proceedings
2008	Possession of firearm with intent/threats to kill	PPS directs no prosecution	Charges dismissed
2008	Indictment with intent to pervert the course of justice	Not known	None officer resigned
2008	Assault	pending	pending
2008	Excess alcohol and dangerous driving	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2008	Alleged misuse of drugs	None	None
2008	Wounding with intent	Guilty	Officer resigned prior to sentencing
2008	Alleged misuse of drugs - positive drugs test	Misconduct only	Officer resigned prior to misconduct proceedings
2008	Driving while unfit	Guilty	None officer resigned prior to sentencing
2008	Driving while unfit	Not known	Resigned prior to hearing
2008	Positive drugs test	Misconduct only	None - officer resigned
2008	Theft	PPS directs no prosecution	Fined
2008	Excess alcohol	Disqualified	None officer resigned prior hearing
2008	Drunk in charge of firearm	absolute discharge	Required to resign
2008	GBH	1 year imprisonment 1 year probation	None officer resigned
2008	AOABH	suspended sentence	Required to resign
2008	Dangerous driving	PPS directed no prosecution	Required to resign
2008	Dangerous driving	Adult Caution	Fined
2008	Dangerous driving	Adult Caution	Fined
2008	Dangerous driving	Adult caution	Reduced in pay
2008	Breach of Firearms	Pending	Pending

	(NI) Order		
2008	Fraudulent mileage claims/ Theft	Suspended sentence	None officer resigned
2009	AOABH	PPS directs no prosecution	None
2009	Inappropriate behaviour	Pending	Pending
2009	Sexual offence	Pending	Pending
2009	shoplifting	PPS directed no prosecution	No further action
2009	Inconsistencies in evidential statement	Pending	Pending
2009	Submitted false mileage claims	PPS directs no prosecution	Charge dismissed
2009	Driving whilst unfit	pending	pending
2009	Driving whilst unfit	Not known	None officer resigned
2009	Positive drugs test	None	None officer resigned
2009	Positive drugs test	None	Required to resign - sanction overturned on appeal to the Policing Appeals Tribunal to monetary penalty
2009	Inappropriate use of police information	None	Dismissed
2009	Excess alcohol	pending	pending
2009	Assault, criminal damage	Not known	None officer resigned
2009	Dangerous driving	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2009	Sexual offence	None	Investigation terminated
2009	AOABH	Not guilty	None
2009	Pervert course of justice/misconduct in public office	Not known	Officer required to resign prior to the conclusion of court proceedings
2009	Driving with excess alcohol	Disqualified	None officer resigned
2009	Theft	Not known	Officer dismissed prior to conclusion of court proceedings
2010	Attempting to pervert the course of justice	Pending	
2010	Attempting to pervert the course of justice	Pending	
2010	Sexual offence	Not known	Officer resigned prior to court proceedings
2010	Possession of indecent photographs	Imprisonment	Officer resigned
2010	Sexual offences	Pending	
2010	Alleged sexual offence	PPS directed no prosecution	None
2010	Underperformance issues	None	Required to resign

2010	Inappropriate behaviour towards colleagues	None	Pending
2010	Neglect of duty/Failure to obey a lawful order	Misconduct only	None officer resigned
2010	Sexual offence	Pending	
2010	Driving with excess alcohol	Pending	
2010	Sexual offence	Pending	
2010	Driving with excess alcohol	Pending	
2010	Sexual offence	Pending	
2010	Neglect of Duty	Pending	
2010	Perverting the course of justice	Pending	
2010	Driving with excess alcohol	Pending	
2010	Inappropriate behaviour towards colleague	Pending	
2010	Alleged possession of controlled substance	Pending	

### Question 3

The number of officers who have been formally disciplined without suspension during the same time period. Again, broken down into figures for each year.

### Answer

The number of officers who have been formally disciplined without suspension since 2005 are as follows;

Thirty officers in 2005  
 Thirty-one officers in 2006  
 Thirty-six officers in 2007  
 Forty officers in 2008  
 Twenty-six officers in 2009  
 Twenty-four officers in 2010

### Question 4

The number of police officers - broken down for each year - who have retired in the midst of disciplinary proceedings or as a result of proceedings.

### Answer

The number of police officers who received a disciplinary sanction of 'requirement to resign as an alternative to dismissal' is as follows;

2005 – five officers  
 2006 – six police officers  
 2007 – sixteen officers  
 2008 – eight officers  
 2009 – six officers  
 2010 – four officers

## **Question 5**

The number of disciplinary hearings - broken down for each year - which resulted in (a) a file going to the PPS/DPP, (b) criminal charges being preferred and (c) criminal convictions.

## **Answer**

The number of disciplinary hearings taken place as a result of an officer being convicted at court is as follows;

2005 – Fifteen formal Misconduct Hearings  
2006 – Twenty-two formal Misconduct Hearings  
2007 – Twenty-three formal Misconduct Hearings  
2008 – Ten formal Misconduct Hearings  
2009 – Six formal Misconduct Hearings  
2010 – Five formal Misconduct Hearings

The figures supplied have been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. All the details requested are not recorded centrally and were obtained from the interrogation of several databases across a number of different categories and the manual examination of a number of files. Information extracted in this manner may not be as accurate as that extracted from a single central database.

It should be noted that each 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 misconduct sanction ultimately imposed consequently what appear to be similar infractions attract different misconduct sanctions.

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the average number of PSNI officers from 2005 to 2010 i.e. around 9000.

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 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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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