



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-03585

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Officers With Criminal Convictions

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you tell me how many of your officers have criminal convictions and what offences they were convicted of.

In your response, please could you indicate in each case whether the conviction occurred before the officer joined your force or while they have been serving?

#### Question 2

In addition, if since 1st January 2008, any officers have resigned or been dismissed from their jobs following a criminal conviction, please could you provide the number of officers and their offences.

#### 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).

The PSNI does not keep a central record of serving police officers with convictions. It would entail an individual criminal record check of around 7500 officers. The Criminal Records Office have been contacted and estimated that this criminal record check, calculated at 6 members of staff checking 350 nominals a day would take 160 hours grossly exceeding the £450 cost ceiling as set by the Secretary of State.

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. It may be possible for the

Professional Standards Department (PSD) to provide the total number of PSNI officers who have been convicted since 1st January 2008 and reported to them along with a range of offences for which convicted. PSD can also supply the number of officers who resigned or were dismissed/required to resign as a result of being convicted of a crime since 2008.

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.

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](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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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