



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01179

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Regulations Regarding Investigations into Police Officers

### 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 a copy of the regulations covering civilian investigators with regards to investigating police officers.

#### Answer:

The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003 Section 30 'Police powers for designated police support staff' outlines the legislation governing civilian investigating officers. This Act can be accessed via the following link [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/Police Northern Ireland Act 2003](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/Police%20Northern%20Ireland%20Act%202003)

#### Question 2

I am looking to see if they can caution for either criminal or police misconduct matters.

#### Answer:

Yes, designated civilian investigators may caution for both criminal or police misconduct matters. In designating a member of police support staff as an investigating officer, the Chief Constable has conferred relevant police powers and imposed relevant duties on them by their designation.

#### Question 3

I would like to know if they can lead a misconduct interview of police officers.

#### Answer

Yes, they can lead a misconduct interview of police officers. PSNI Professional Standards Department applies the authority from the Chief Constable to designate relevant investigative functions to the civilian investigating officers attached to the department.

The information supplied has been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police 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](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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

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