



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-00269

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Allegations of Sexual Assault/Sexual 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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

You previously clarified that 'officers disciplined' refers to those subject to a formal misconduct hearing, and those who are disciplined on a more informal basis. You have confirmed that you are content to receive information relating to the number of officers formally disciplined.

### Question 1

For each of the last five years how many officers have been formally disciplined for allegations of sexual assault.

### Answer

No officers have been formally disciplined for allegations of sexual assault in the last five years.

### Question 2

For each of the last five years how many of these officers were prosecuted.

### Answer

Not relevant, please see response to question one.

### Question 3

For each of the last five years how many of these officers were dismissed.

### Answer

Not relevant, please see response to question one.

**Question 4**

For each of the last five years how many officers have been formally disciplined for allegations of sexual misconduct.

**Answer**

Three officers have been formally disciplined for allegations of sexual misconduct in the last five years.

**Question 5**

For each of the last five years how many of these officers were prosecuted.

**Answer**

One officer was prosecuted.

**Question 6**

For each of the last five years how many of these officers were dismissed.

**Answer**

Two of these officers were dismissed.

It should be noted that each case is examined on an individual basis to determine the level and nature of misconduct of the officer. 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.

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.

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 2006 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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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