



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00291

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers With Criminal Convictions

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to know the number of current serving officers in the PSNI who have obtained a criminal conviction since the inception of the PSNI, where the conviction has been reported to Professional Standards Department.

I also request a breakdown of the convictions and the number of officers who have been convicted of each crime.

Answer

At the date of your request there are one hundred and nine serving PSNI officers who have obtained a criminal conviction since the inception of the PSNI, i.e. November 2001, where the conviction has been reported to Professional Standards Department.

The table below outlines the number of officers who have been convicted for the following types of crime:

Conviction	Number of officers
Motoring offences; i.e. , Careless driving, excess speed, no MOT, failure to produce driving licence, breach of traffic sign, excess alcohol, dangerous driving, driving without due care and attention, failure to use registration mark, no 'R' plates displayed, no insurance, permitting no insurance, fail to remain, fail to report	91
Breach of railway by-law	2
Harassment	2
Disorderly behaviour	4
Breach of Firearms (NI) Order	1
Breach of non-molestation order	1
Drinking in a public place	1
Breach of Data Protection Act	6
Common Assault	4
Breach of Litter Order	2
Smoking in a smoke free place	1

Whilst the PSNI take extremely seriously any wrongdoing by a police officer, the number of cases should be put into context of the number of officers attached to PSNI during the time-frame requested i.e., average strength of around 9500 officers.

At present, legislation¹ dictates that (except for 'Special Cases') all criminal proceedings must be finalised before misconduct proceedings can take place. This includes any subsequent appeals against conviction or sentence. It should be noted that a number of officers included in the above figures are due to appear before a formal misconduct hearing and therefore the outcome of these proceedings will determine if these officers remain in the PSNI.

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.

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.

¹ Regulation 6 Royal Ulster Constabulary (Conduct) Regulations 2000