



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-03098

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Officers Suspended from Duty

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

The number of officers suspended from duty since 1st January 2012 :

- a) in total.
- b) per district.

(eg. 3 suspensions since 1st January 2012 - 1 in F District and 2 in G district)

#### 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.

At the date of your request, the number of officers suspended from duty since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 is twenty.

The table below outlines the number of officers who were suspended by District

District	Number of Officers
Headquarters Departments	5
A District	4
B District	1
D District	1
E District	1
F District	5
G District	2
H District	1

## **Question 2**

The number of officers dismissed from duty since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 (clarified as dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal)

- a) in total
- b) per district

(e.g. 1 dismissal since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, 1 in D District)

## **Answer**

At the date of your request, the number of officers dismissed or required to resign as an alternative to dismissal since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 is three.

One officer was attached to Headquarters department, one officer was attached to G District and one officer was attached to B District.

## **Question 3**

The reason(s) for

- a) suspension
- b) dismissal

(e.g. 3 suspensions 1 misconduct charge under investigation etc)  
clarified as the number of charges categorised by 'misconduct' or 'criminal'

## **Answer**

Fourteen of the officers were suspended pending the outcome of criminal investigations and four officers were suspended pending the outcome of misconduct investigations.

It should be noted that during the course of any investigation, the grounds for suspension may alter. Not all investigations result in criminal /misconduct proceedings and not all criminal /misconduct proceedings result in findings of guilt.

Two officers were suspended on their last month of service as they were required to resign at a Formal Misconduct Hearing.

One officer was dismissed or required to resign on criminal and misconduct charges  
One officer was dismissed or required to resign on misconduct charges  
One officer was dismissed or required to resign on criminal and misconduct charges.

The Police Service for Northern Ireland expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times. Any conduct, whether on or off duty, which brings or is likely to bring discredit on the Police Service will be investigated robustly. Consistent with the seriousness of an allegation, the circumstances surrounding its commission and its potential impact, an officer may be suspended pending the outcome of both a criminal or misconduct investigation.

The information supplied has been compiled by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. Whilst the PSNI takes seriously any wrongdoing by a police officer, the number of officers dismissed and suspended must be put into context of the strength of the PSNI, i.e. around 7500 officers.

The data retrieved is not recorded centrally and was 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.

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.