



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-04763

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Arrested for Domestic Violence

Request and Answer:

Question

Could it be possible for you to tell me how many PSNI officers male and female have been arrested for domestic dispute charges?

Clarification received:

Could you please tell me how many male and female officers of the PSNI have been arrested for domestic violence since March 2010. I would be grateful if you would help me with this exact information.

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.

Since March 2010, twenty male PSNI officers and one female PSNI officer have been arrested for incidents involving domestic violence. The Public Prosecution Service determined to prosecute in one case, and whilst this officer was acquitted in court, they were dismissed from the PSNI.

The Police Service for Northern Ireland expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times. Whilst the PSNI will deal robustly with any officer guilty of wrongdoing, the number of officers outlined in this request should be placed in context with the average strength of the PSNI, i.e. around 7,500.

The information supplied has been compiled by Discipline Branch, Service Improvement 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.