



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05839

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers Guilty of Misconduct

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please specify the number of police officers found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Professional Standards Department since the start of 2011. Please specify in each case the nature of misconduct.

Clarification received;

I confirm that I am content to be provided with the number of officers who were disciplined at a formal misconduct hearing for breach(es) of the PSNI Code of Ethics

Answer

The table below outlines the number of officers who were disciplined at a formal misconduct hearing and the particular Articles of the PSNI Code of Ethics they were found guilty of breaching since 2011

PSNI Code of Ethics determined to be breached at Formal Misconduct Hearing
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Equality,
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Privacy & Confidentiality, 1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
1 x Equality
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Fitness for Duty
2 x Police Investigations, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Police Investigations, 1 x Duty of Supervisors
1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
2 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty

1 x Privacy & Confidentiality, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Police Investigations, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional duty
3 x Professional Duty
2 x Professional Duty, 1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty
2011 Total – 24 Officers
1 x Property
1 x Integrity
2 x Professional Duty
2 x Integrity, 1 x Professional Duty
3 x Professional Duty
1 x Police Investigations
3 x Police Investigations, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
2 x Integrity
2 x Integrity, 1 x Privacy & Confidentiality
1 x Integrity, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Integrity 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
3 x Police Investigations, 1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Property
1 x Integrity, 2 x Privacy & Confidentiality
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Use of Force, 1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Police Investigations, 1 x Property, 1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity, 1 x Property
2012 Total – 21 Officers
2 x Professional Duty, 1 x Property
2 x Integrity
1 x Police Investigations
1 x Police Investigations
1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
2 x police Investigations, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Police Investigations, 1 x Integrity
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Privacy and Confidentiality
1 x Professional Duty, 1 x Integrity
2 x Police Investigations
1 x Professional Duty
1 x Professional Duty
2 x Fitness for Duty
1 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
1 x Police Investigations
1 x Professional Duty
2 x Professional Duty, 1 Privacy & Confidentiality, 1 x Integrity

1 x Integrity, 1 x Professional Duty
1 x Integrity
2 x Integrity
1 x Integrity
2013 (at 1/12/2013) Total – 28 Officers

Question 2

Please also specify the number of ongoing investigations into serious misconduct and the nature of each case

Answer

There are currently ninety-one ongoing internal investigations into alleged misconduct of police officers. These investigations have been categorised by the following potential breach of the PSNI Code of Ethics;

Article 1 Professional Duty x 14
Article 2 Police Investigations x 3
Article 3 Privacy & Confidentiality x 8
Article 7 Integrity x 62
Article 8 Property x 3
Article 9 Fitness for Duty x 1

It should be noted that ongoing cases will be at different stages of investigation, with potential breaches of the PSNI Code of Ethics possibly differing during the course of enquiries, investigations closing with no further action and investigations determining that no wrong doing has occurred. The Police Service for Northern Ireland expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times, however 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.