



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-06235

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers On Duty Caught Speeding 2010 - 2013

Request and Answer:

Question1

How many PSNI officers (excluding those off-duty) were caught speeding in the last four years (2010, 11, 12 and 2013 to date)?

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.

Please find below a table showing the number of PSNI officers detected speeding whilst on duty by the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership over the past four years.

June – December 2010	2011	2012	January – September 2013
34	174	168	129

Please note records are only available from June 2010 following the introduction of a new recording system.

Question 2

Of these, how many had their offences cancelled/ignored (i.e. were let off). Please explain the reason/s in each case?

Answer

Please find below a table showing methods of disposal.

	June – December 2010	2011	2012	January – September 2013
Driver Awareness Course Completed	17	32	31	20
Cancelled	3	119	110	80
Pending	0	0	0	4
Exported to VPFPO*	14	23	24	22
Prosecution	0	0	3	2
Enquiries Ongoing	0	0	0	1

*VPFPO – Vehicle Procedure Fixed Penalty Office

When a Police Officer is detected exceeding the speed limit, the circumstances are individually examined to determine whether the legal exemption for on-duty officers applies as per Article 42 of the Road Traffic Regulation (NI) Order 1997. Where the legal exemption can be justified, e.g. response to crime in progress, an authorised pursuit or other immediate and serious situation, then the notice will be voided. The specifics of each exemption would require a manual trawl through the paperwork for the 312 such cases. It is estimated that this would take 5 minutes per case, equating to 26 hours to extract this information exceeding the total time allowed per request which is 18 hours.

Question 3

How many off-duty PSNI officers were caught speeding in the last four years (2010, 11, 12 and 2013 to date)?

Answer

The driver of a vehicle detected speeding is not required to provide details of their occupation, therefore this information is not recorded.

Question 4

Of these, how many off-duty officers had their offences cancelled/ignored (i.e. were let off). Please explain the reason/s in each case.

Answer

Please see answer to question 3.

Question 5

How many PSNI officers (excluding those off-duty) were disciplined after being caught speeding on speeding cameras in the last two financial years (2006/07 and 2007/08)?

Clarification received amending these dates to last four years – 2010/11/12/13 and detected by any means of speeding.

Answer

Please see below a table showing the number of PSNI officers disciplined after being detected speeding whilst on duty in 2010/11/12/13.

2010	2011	2012	2013
4	6	2	1

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.