



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00020

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers Suspended on Full Pay

Request and Answer:

Question 1

As of 01.01.14 how many of your force's officers were suspended on full pay? Please provide me with a breakdown showing the number of officers suspended in each rank of your force as of 01.01.2014.

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.

On the 1st January 2014, four inspectors, five sergeants, and fifteen constables i.e. twenty-four officers were suspended on full pay.

Pay and allowances of suspended officers is governed by Regulations 23(4), 36 and Schedule 3 of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Regulations 2005. In summary, a suspended officer is statutorily entitled to full salary and allowances while suspended unless detained, in pursuance of a sentence of a court, in a prison or other institution to which the Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953) applies, is in custody (whether in prison or elsewhere) between conviction by a court and sentence, or has absented himself/herself from duty and whose whereabouts are unknown to the Chief Constable.

Question 2

Please also provide me with a list showing the date (month/year) that each officer suspended as of 01.01.14 was first suspended from duty on full pay.

Answer

Please find below a table showing the date (month/year) that each officer was first suspended from duty on full pay.

Number of officers	Date suspension initiated
1	September 2011
1	October 2011
1	November 2011
1	January 2012
1	March 2012
2	July 2012
1	October 2012
1	November 2012
1	December 2012
1	February 2013
1	April 2013
1	May 2013
1	July 2013
1	August 2013
6	November 2013
3	December 2013

Question 3

How many of the suspended officers as of 01.01.2013 (this is the correct date) have since returned to work and how many were dismissed or resigned.

Answer

Of the twenty-three officers suspended on 1st January 2013, six officers returned to work, one officer was required to resign as an alternative to dismissal, and six officers left the PSNI.

The PSNI expect its officers to behave with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism at all times, and any conduct, which brings or is likely to bring discredit on the Service will be investigated in order to establish whether or not a breach of the PSNI Code of Ethics has occurred. The number of suspended officers should be placed into context with the overall strength of the PSNI, i.e. around 7500 officers.

At present, legislation (Regulation 6, Royal Ulster Constabulary (Conduct) Regulations 2000) 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. Unfortunately, awaiting the conclusion of criminal proceedings accounts in the most part for the length of time an officer remains on suspension.

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.