



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00076

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Suspended Officers

Request and Answer:

Question

I wish to know how many PSNI officers are currently suspended from duty as of January 8, 2014, their rank, District Command Unit/Department, length of suspension and the range of offences being investigated in relation to the suspensions?

Answer

On the 8th January 2014, four inspectors, five sergeants, fifteen constables and two part-time constables were suspended. The District Command Unit/Department these officers are attached to are as follows:

District Command Unit/Department	Number of officers
A District	1
C District	2
E District	3
F District	5
G District	3
H District	3
Crime Department	7
Ops Support Department	2

The length of suspensions are as follows:

Number of officers	Length of suspension
1	27 months
1	26 months
1	25 months
1	24 months
1	23 months
1	22 months
1	18 months
1	14 months

1	13 months
1	12 months
1	11 months
1	8 months
1	7 months
1	6 months
1	5 months
1	3 months
10	Less than 2 months

The range of alleged offences being investigated in relation to the suspensions are as follows:

Inappropriate access of police systems, excess alcohol, abuse of authority, fraud, misconduct in public office, breach of firearms (NI) Order, sexual offence, criminal damage, disorderly behaviour, drug offence, providing misleading information to authorities, theft, harassment, perverting course of justice, mishandling of police property.

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 PSNI expect its officers to behave with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism at all times. Any conduct which brings, or is likely to bring discredit on the Service, will be robustly 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 7,500 officers.

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, Wycliff 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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.