



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01235

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Officers Suspended For Criminal Activity

Request and Answer:

Question 1

In the years 2013, 2014, and 2015 to date how many officers have been suspended from duty for criminal activity?

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.

Thirteen officers in 2013, seventeen officers in 2014, and six officers in 2015 were suspended from duty as a result of alleged criminal conduct.

Question 2

Additionally to the above please list what type of offence was committed (drugs, driving etc)

Answer

These officers were criminally investigated for the following alleged offences;

Harassment, assault, drug offence, criminal damage, perverting the course of justice, data protection offence, drunk in charge, fraud/theft, misconduct in public office, sex offence, firearm offence.

PSNI officers are expected to behave with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism at all times, and any conduct which is likely to bring discredit on the Service will be investigated robustly 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 average strength of the PSNI for this time-frame, i.e. around 7500 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 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.