



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01398

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Data Misuse

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Could you tell me how many incidents of police data misuse were recorded by the force for 2014/15 and 2013/14?

Clarification sought: Your request seeks information in relation to police data misuse. Can this be understood to mean incidents relating to potential misuse of police computer systems? You also seek the number of recorded incidents. Are you content to receive the number of incidents that were reported to and investigated by PSNI Discipline Branch?

Clarification received: Data misuse referred to the number of incidents that were investigated and the outcome.

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the response is as follows.

In 2014/2015, Discipline Branch investigated twelve incidents relating to misuse of police computer systems. In 2013/2014, Discipline Branch investigated twelve incidents relating to misuse of police computer systems.

Question 2

Could you also provide a breakdown of the nature of data misuse this involved - and what, if any, disciplinary action was taken?

Answer

In all twenty-four incidents, the misuse involved accessing police systems for non-police purposes. The table below provides a breakdown of action taken.

Action Taken	2013/14	2014/15
Not substantiated	2	1
Reduction in Pay	1	
Required to Resign as an alternative to Dismissal		1
Superintendent's Written Warning	4	3

Management Discussion/Advice & Guidance	3	3
Ongoing	2	4
Total	12	12

The information supplied has been compiled by Discipline Branch, Service Improvement Department, which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers. The strength of the PSNI for this time-frame is around 7200 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.psnipolice.uk

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