



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-02098

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Police Officers Convicted of Breach of the Data Protection Act

**Request and Answer:**

**Question**

Discipline Disposals by Professional Standards Department of Police Officers convicted of Breach of Data Protection offences from 2000 to 2015 by way of Rank and Sanction imposed?

**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.

The table below outlines the disciplinary sanctions issued to officers as a result of receiving a conviction at court or an Adult Caution for Breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in the time-frame requested :

Year of Conviction	Disciplinary Sanction	Rank
2000	No cases recorded	
2001	no cases recorded	
2002	No cases recorded	
2003	No cases recorded	
2004	Reprimand	Constable
2005	No cases recorded	
2006	Reprimand x1 Fine x1	Constable x2
2007	Caution x1 Reprimand x1 Reduction in Pay x1	Constable x3

2008	Caution x2 Superintendent's Written Warning x1	Constable x3
2009	Superintendent's Written Warning x2	Constable x2
2010	No cases recorded	
2011	Reduction in Pay x2	Sergeant x1 Constable x1
2012	Reduction in Pay x2	Constable x2
2013	Fine	Constable
2014	Reduction in pay x1 Fine x1 Superintendent's Written Warning x1	Constable x3
2015 (1 <sup>st</sup> July 2015)	No cases recorded	

It should be noted that each case is examined on an individual basis to determine the level of misconduct of the officer and the extent to which the PSNI Code of Ethics has been breached. The seriousness of the offence, and the circumstances surrounding its commission would have dictated the sanction ultimately imposed.

The average strength of the RUCGC /PSNI for this 15 year time-frame is around 9000 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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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