



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2015-00829

**Keyword:** Human Resources

**Subject:** PSNI Officers With Alcohol Problems

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Please can you tell me – over the last 12 months:

How many PSNI officers have been discovered to have problems with alcohol? (as a number and as a percentage of all officers)

Clarification Request: We have been advised that to answer either question 1 or 2 would put your request over cost as it would require a manual trawl of staff medical files to obtain the requested data. Would be happy for your FOI request to be refined to remove those questions that would result in the request going over cost?

Response: OK. Thanks.

#### Question 2

How many officers, referred for counselling support, have been found to have problems where alcohol is affecting their work or personal life (as a number and as a percentage of those referred to counselling)

Question removed under request for clarification above.

#### Question 3

How many officers have been reported for being under the influence of alcohol while on duty (How many officers and how many incidents)

#### Answer

The PSNI Discipline branch has received no reports of any officer being under the influence of alcohol while on duty in the last 12 months.

#### Question 4

What is the procedure for providing support for officers found to be struggling with alcohol addiction, and what's the procedure for disciplining officers found to be under the influence on duty.

## **Answer**

Occupational Health and Welfare (OHW) provides a wide range of mental health treatments including counselling, Cognitive behavioural therapy and psychology. However OHW do not provide treatments specific to alcohol as we sign post these to NHS Addiction Teams. In addition, the PSNI has an 'in-house' Alcoholics Anonymous group that officers can attend on a confidential basis.

PSNI officers are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the PSNI Code of Ethics, and any officer who breaches these standards will be investigated robustly and disciplined accordingly. Article 9.2 'Fitness for Duty' outlines the standard expected of every officer to carry out their responsibilities, and shall not be unfit or impaired as a result of drinking alcohol. The PSNI Code of Ethics is publicly available on the PSNI website, a link to which is given below

[http://www.psni.police.uk/about\\_professional\\_standards](http://www.psni.police.uk/about_professional_standards)

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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