



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00947

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Officers Charged and Convicted of Criminal offence

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act can you confirm the number of PSNI officers (i.) arrested and (ii.) charged with a suspected criminal offence over each of the last 5 years and can you provide a summary of the offences and furthermore can you detail how many continued to serve in the PSNI?

Clarification Sought

Your FOI request seeks the number of PSNI officers who have been arrested and charged with a suspected criminal offence. Discipline Branch holds information regarding all officers who have been charged and convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years, however to determine if an officer was arrested would entail the examination of individual investigation files. An initial estimate of extracting information on the number of arrests would exceed the legislative cost limits of 18 hours alone.

Discipline Branch has confirmed that it can retrieve the number of officers charged and convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years, the nature of the offence and if these officers continue to serve in the PSNI

Clarification Received

Can I refine the request to those who have been charged and convicted?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

The table below outlines the number of officers charged (i.e., where the Public Prosecution Service has directed prosecution) and convicted at court in the last five years. The table also outlines a summary of the offence and if the officer is still serving;

Year	Conviction	Still Serving
August to December 2011	Drink driving offence x3	No
	Unlawful possession of firearm	No
	Breach of Data Protection Act	No
2012	AOABH	No
	Misfeasance in public office	No
	Drink driving offence x5	No
	Motoring offence x4	Yes
	Common assault	Yes
	Breach of Data Protection Act	Yes
2013	Drink Driving offence x2	No
	Motoring offence x 5	4 x Yes 1 x No
	Misconduct in Public Office	Yes
	No television Licence	Yes
	Perverting the course of Justice	No
	Fraud	No
2014	Drink driving offence x2	No
	Breach of Data Protection Act	Yes
	Motoring offence x3	Yes
	Drug Offence	No
2015	Common assault x2	Yes
	Drink Driving offence x4	No
	Theft	No
	Motoring offence x3	Yes
	Drug offence	No
	Sale of counterfeit goods	Yes
	Fraud	No
	Disorderly behaviour	No
2016		
	Drink Driving offence x2	No

Misconduct proceedings have yet to conclude in relation to one case subsequently the outcome of disciplinary proceedings will determine if this officer remains in the PSNI.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times. Any officer who breaches the ethical standards expected of them, either on or off duty, can expect to be disciplined accordingly.

The strength of the PSNI is 6810 Regular Officers and 351 POPTs (Police Officer Part-Time).

The information supplied has been compiled by Discipline Branch, Legacy and Justice Department.

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.psni.police.uk

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