



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-00753

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Allegations of Racism

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many complaints of racism has your force received by (a) an alleged victim (b) a fellow police officer, or (c) a third party in respect of racist comments or behaviour by a member of your force? Please give figures for the 2015/16 financial year.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates.

The number of complaints of racist behaviour or comments in the 2015/16 financial year, broken down by the person reporting the behaviour, is as follows:

Alleged victim	Third Party	Fellow Officer	Not known	Total
15	1	1	5	22

The current method of recording Police Ombudsman NI complaints, specifically the use of allegation sub types such as ‘Racially Discriminatory Behaviour’ has allowed this request to be answered within cost, compared with previous occasions when this had not have been possible.

Question 2

How many officers have been disciplined as a result of complaints of racism and what was the result of that disciplinary action?

Answer

The number of officers disciplined for racist comments or behaviour is as follows: Required to resign x 1, Superintendents Written Warning x 1.

Question 3

In relation to the last five incidents which fell within the remit of Q2 please state any words or phrases that were deemed to have been racist.

Answer

A search of the last five incidents which fell within the remit of Q2 did not reveal any specific phrases or words which were deemed to be racist. Rather the complaints related to attitudes or behaviour which was perceived to be discriminatory towards the complainant's based on their ethnicity or race, but without the use of specific racist terms.

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.