



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01428

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI/Data Protection Act Breaches 2016

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to the following records and information:

The number of a) Police officers and b) civilian employees that have been convicted for breaches of Data Protection Act 1998.

I request that the time period covered is 1st January 2016 to the date this request is processed.

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 does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

a) There have been no convictions of PSNI officers for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 during the requested time period of the 1st January 2016 and the 28th June 2017.

b) The PSNI Human Resources department have confirmed that the PSNI do not hold records of criminal convictions on the HR system and so have no information to answer this question.

Question 2

The number of a) Police officers and b) civilian employees that have had their employment terminated for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Answer

a) No PSNI officers have had their employment terminated for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 during the requested time period of the 1st January 2016 and the 28th June 2017.

b) No civilian employees have had their employment terminated for breaches of Data Protection Act 1998 in the period stated.

Question 3

The number of a) Police officers and b) civilian employees that have been disciplined internally for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Answer

a) 13 officers have been disciplined internally for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 during the requested time period of the 1st January 2016 and the 28th June 2017.

b) 2 civilian employees have been disciplined internally for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 during the requested time period of the 1st January 2016 and the 28th June 2017.

Question 4

The number of a) Police officers and b) civilian employees that have resigned during disciplinary procedures 1998.

Answer

a) 2 police officers have resigned during disciplinary procedures during the period stated.

b) No civilian employees have resigned during disciplinary procedures during the period stated.

Question 5

The number of instances where a breach has not led to any disciplinary action.

In each case, I request that you provide a list of the offences committed by the individual(s) in question, for example "Accessed personal information for personal interest" or "Inappropriately shared victim information with a third party".

Answer

There were 10 instances where a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 has not led to any disciplinary action. The requested description of these incidents is provided in the table below.

Incident Description	Result
Inappropriate access of police record	No further action
Inappropriate access of personal details	No further action
Inappropriate access of police record	No further action
Disclosure of information from police systems	No further action
Inappropriate access of personal details	No further action
Inappropriate access of police records	No further action
Disclosure of information from police systems	No further action
Inappropriate access of police records	No further action
Inappropriate dissemination of police information	No further action
Inappropriate access of police record	No further action

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.psnj.police.uk

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