



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01499

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Complaints against PSNI

Request and Answer:

Your request for information below has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold the information you have requested, however we consider that the information you seek is exempt by virtue of Section 21 FOIA, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

Request 1

For each of the past five years please could tell me:

What is the total number of complaints made by members of the public about your force? If your force categorises them then please provide a total and a breakdown by category.

Response

This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. The information in question can be accessed on the website of the Police Ombudsman at the following link:

<https://policeombudsman.org/getmedia/37e06a5e-28e1-43e1-93b7-d6f023471344/Annual-Statistical-Bulletin-2017-18.pdf>

Request 2

If not covered in the answer to question one, how many complaints were made about the quality of investigations?

Response

This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means. The information in question can be accessed on the website of the Police Ombudsman at the following link:

<https://policeombudsman.org/getmedia/37e06a5e-28e1-43e1-93b7-d6f023471344/Annual-Statistical-Bulletin-2017-18.pdf>

The PSNI expect officers to behave with the utmost integrity, both on and off duty and the statistics

provided in above link should be placed in context of the average strength of the PSNI during the time-frame requested, which is around 6700 regular officers and 400 POPTs (Police Officer Part-Time).

This response has been provided by Professional Standards, Legacy & 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.