



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02519

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Misconduct Relating to Social Media

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 and this is being provided to you.

Request 1

In relation to the PONI complaint category of Social Media:

Can you tell me how many times since 2016 to as present as possible complaints have been received to the PSNI over PSNI Facebook pages?

Answer

Since 2016 a total of 37 complaints have been received in relation to PSNI Facebook pages.

Request 2

Can you tell me the number of officers who have been disciplined at a misconduct hearing or received a Superintendent's Written Warning (SWW) in relation to social media with appropriate detail?

Answer

Four officers have either been disciplined at a misconduct hearing, or received a Superintendent's Written Warning in relation to their use of social media. The nature of these cases is given below:

1. Inappropriate use of social media during working hours
2. Inappropriate use of social media during working hours
3. Offensive Facebook posts about a colleague
4. Offensive Facebook posts about a colleague

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.