



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01819

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Staff and Officers Who Resigned Whilst Under Investigation

Request and 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.

Request 1

The number of police officers, PCSOs or civilian staff in your police force who have resigned or retired while under investigation for misconduct, from 15 Dec 2017 to 14 July 2018 (inclusive)

Answer

A total of 8 police officers and 2 police staff have retired or resigned from PSNI whilst under misconduct investigation during the period 15/12/2017 to 14/07/2018.

Request 2

A brief description of the alleged misconduct (that gives no personal details e.g. assault against civilian in custody)

Answer

The police officers were being investigated for the following offences:

- Disclosure of police information
- Alleged sexual assault
- Dishonesty in relation to police investigations
- Unlawful access of police information
- Harassment of ex-husband's partner
- Harassment of ex-partner
- Dishonesty relating to the content of a statement
- Conducting a business interest on sick leave without approval
- Failure to investigate and provide update
- Fraudulent claim of benefits
- Inappropriate relationship with member of the public
- Failure to obey lawful order
- Failure to investigate
- Removal of items relating to internal investigation

Please note that some officers were under investigation for more than one matter.

The police staff were being investigated for the following offences:

Under the influence of drugs on duty
suspicion of theft of PSNI property

Request 3

If applicable, the alleged offence(s)

Answer

The following offences were applicable for police officers:

Data protection
Sexual assault
Voyeurism
Harassment
Harassment
Perverting the course of justice
False Declaration with View to Obtain Benefit
Misconduct in a public office
Obstruction

Please note that one officer faced more than one criminal charge and four officers did not have any criminal charges pending against them

The following offences were applicable for police staff:

Under the influence of drugs on duty
suspicion of theft of PSNI property

Request 4

The misconduct outcome (if case ongoing, please state that)

Answer

There was no misconduct outcome against any of the officers as they all resigned or retired prior to the conclusion of misconduct proceedings. The cases in relation to police staff are still pending.

Request 5

If applicable, the criminal outcome

Answer

One officer was found guilty at court and received a conditional discharge. There was not criminal outcome recorded against any of the other officers whilst serving, as they either left the service prior to conclusion of criminal proceedings, or did not have criminal charges pending. In the cases of police staff, Human Resources have advised this is unknown.

Request 6

Whether the employee was put on the Police Barred List

Answer

As PSNI are not a Home Office Force they are not included in the legislation which requires Home Office Forces to place flagstone record on the Police National Database for those who subject to the Barred and Advisory legislation.

Request 7

Whether the employee was put on the Police Advisory List

Answer

As PSNI are not a Home Office Force they are not included in the legislation which requires Home Office Forces to place flagstone record on the Police National Database for those who subject to the Barred and Advisory legislation.

Request 8

Whether the employee is still on the Police Advisory List and if not, please include whether this is because they were moved to the Police Barred List or were removed altogether

Answer

As PSNI are not a Home Office Force they are not included in the legislation which requires Home Office Forces to place flagstone record on the Police National Database for those who subject to the Barred and Advisory legislation.

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.