



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-00906

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Convicted Police Officers and Staff

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

I would like the total number of police officers / civilian staff in your force that have been convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years to March 31 2018.

I would also like the data divided between police officers and police civilian staff.

Answer

During the past five years (2013-14 to 2017-18 financial years) a total of 33 police officers received criminal convictions. A further 28 officers received Adult Cautions (these are non-statutory disposals and are not classed as a conviction, however they form part of an individual's criminal record).

All police officers are required to notify their authorities if they are subject to criminal proceedings, and this response is based on this premise. Failure on the part of an officer to declare that they were subject to criminal proceedings would in itself be a breach of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Code of Ethics.

10 Police Staff have been convicted of a criminal offence during period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2018

The Police Service of Northern Ireland expects its staff to behave professionally, ethically and with the utmost integrity both on and off duty and the above data should be placed in the context of the average strength of the PSNI during the time frame requested, which is around 6700 regular officer and 400 POPTs (Police Officer Part Time). Any officer who breaches the ethical standards expected of them, either on or off duty, can expect to be disciplined accordingly.

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.