



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00705

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Investigated for COVID Breaches

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Can you tell me the total number of Police Officers investigated for a breach of any of the Coronavirus Regulations from the start of the pandemic (approx. Jan 2020) to date?

Answer 1

A total of 5 police officers have been investigated for a breach OF Coronavirus regulations.

Request 2

Can you tell me the brief description of each incident e.g. failure to self-isolate?

Answer 2

The incidents were as follows:

Incident	Number of Officers
Failure to Quarantine	2
Permitting gathering in a Private Dwelling	1
Breach of International Travel Regulations	2

Request 3

Can you tell me the criminal disposals for each incident to include:

- Use of 4 E's (No criminal sanction)
- Issue of a FPN
- Report to PPS
- Other (please specify)

Answer 3

The criminal disposals were as follows:

Criminal Disposal	Total
No Prosecution	2
Fined	1
Ongoing	2

Request 4

Can you tell me the misconduct sanctions for each incident including “ongoing” for any incidents still ongoing?

Answer 4

The misconduct outcomes were as follows:

Misconduct Outcomes	Total
Management Action	1
No Further Action	1
Ongoing	3

Request 5

Can you tell me the number of incidents that involved a seizure and examination of a personal mobile phone by the investigating officer during the course of the investigation?

Answer 5

A total of one investigation involved the seizure of a personal mobile phone.

Request 6

Can you tell me the number of incidents that involved the use of secondary police powers during the course of the investigation for example, PACE to search, PACE to arrest?

Answer 6

A total of two investigations involved the use of secondary police powers such as PACE.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner’s Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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’, or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.