



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00767

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Covid Violations by Police Officers

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 does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

In the time period from 1.3.20 to the date of this e-mail being logged (26.3.21) by your force please state how many officers from your force have received some type of disciplinary sanction because they breached some part of Coronavirus guidelines or laws in either their personal life or while on the job.

Answer

In the time period from 01/03/20 to 26/03/21 a total of 9 officers have received a disciplinary sanction for breach of coronavirus guidelines or regulations.

Request 2

For each occasion please state (a) if the officer was on or off duty, (b) a brief description of how they breached the laws/guidelines and (c) the disciplinary sanction imposed on them.

Answer

(a) Seven of the officers were off duty and two officers were on duty.

(b) The breaches of the guidelines/regulations were as follows:

- Attendance at a house party in breach of Covid regulations
- Attendance at a house party in breach of Covid regulations
- Attendance at a house party in breach of Covid regulations
- Indoor meeting of more than 2 families
- Attendance at work with a temperature, and failure to maintain social distancing
- Failure to maintain social distancing
- Attendance at a house party in breach of Covid regulations
- Indoor meeting of more than 2 families
- Indoor meeting of more than 2 families

(c) The following sanctions were imposed:

- Management action = 6 Officers

Written warning = 3 Officers

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.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.