



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-00780

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Declarable Associations

### 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.

### Clarification sought

Are you seeking information in relation to officers being members of notifiable organisations e.g. Orange Order, Masonic, or are they seeking information relating to officers having associations with individuals around which there are concerns of criminality etc.

Also does it relate to officers themselves notifying PSD of their membership / associations, or reports being submitted about concerns around an officer?

### Clarification Received

Thanks for your query. I was seeking information about any type of notifiable association, which could be to an organisation or individual. I am aware that different forces record this in different ways, with different categorisations, so whatever way the PSNI records/categorises these associations and declarations is fine. I am also interested in both self-declared and those reported about officers.

### Request

In each year since 2018 (inclusive), the number of low-risk, medium-risk and high-risk “declarable associations” (or equivalent notifications made regarding a staff member’s association) regarding officers and other staff that have been referred to professional standards units.

### Answer

Since 2018 a total of 4 reports have been made to Professional Standards regarding potential inappropriate associations by PSNI officers.

All PSNI officers are required to inform Professional Standards Department of their membership of any organisation which might be deemed notifiable. PSNI do not hold details on notifications which have been received since 2018, however the current total number of serving officers who have informed Professional Standards of their membership of a notifiable organisation is as below:

<b>Notifiable organisation</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Ancient Order of Hibernians	1
Apprentice Boys of Derry	23
Freemasons	149
Independent Orange Order	6
Knights of St Columbanus	1
Loyal Orange Institution	98
Royal Black	46
Member of Organisation Not Specified	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>

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](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.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/](http://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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.