

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01050

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officer Misconduct

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 to Requester

What are you referring to by 'sexual misconduct cases' (Question 4, 5 and 8)? Is this limited to misconduct hearings, or does it include sexual matters which have been investigated by Professional Standards; or reported to Professional Standards, which have not gone to hearing?

Clarification from Requester

This is limited to misconduct hearings.

Request 1

How many misconduct hearings were held by your police force in the financial years:

- a. 2018- 2019
- b. 2019-2020
- c. 2020-2021
- d. 2021-2022 (to date)

Answer

PSNI held the following number of misconduct hearings:

- a. 2018- 2019 - 14
- b. 2019-2020 - 7
- c. 2020-2021 - 10
- d. 2021-2022 - 10

Request 2

How many of the misconduct hearings above for the financial years between 2018-2022 (to date) were held in private?

Answer

All PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private.

Request 3

How many sexual misconduct cases were there in your police force in the financial years:

- a. 2018-2019
- b. 2019-2020
- c. 2020- 2021
- d. 2021- 2022 to date

Answer

PSNI held the following number of hearings related to sexual misconduct:

- a. 2018-2019 - 3
- b. 2019-2020 - 0
- c. 2020- 2021 - 1
- d. 2021- 2022 - 3

Request 4

How many officers were granted anonymity or were unnamed for sexual misconduct cases, can you break this down into male/female and other officers in the financial years from 2018-2022 (to date)?

Answer

As all PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private no officers were publicly named in relation to sexual misconduct cases.

Request 5

How many officers were given a final written warning were given anonymity or were unnamed for sexual misconduct cases, can you break this down into male/female and other officers in the financial years from 2018-2022 (to date)?

Answer

- a. 2018-2019 – 2 officers received a final written warning
- b. 2019-2020 - 0
- c. 2020- 2021 - 0
- d. 2021- 2022 - 0

Both officers were male.

Request 6

How many non-sexual misconducts hearings were held by your police force in the financial years:

- a. 2018-2019
- b. 2019-2020
- c. 2020- 2021
- d. 2021-2022 to date

Answer

PSNI held the following number of non-sexual misconduct hearings:

- a. 2018-2019 - 11
- b. 2019-2020 - 7
- c. 2020- 2021 - 9
- d. 2021-2022 - 7

Request 7

How many officers dismissed for gross misconduct were granted anonymity or were unnamed in non-sexual misconduct cases in the financial years between 2018 -2022 (to date). Can you break this down into gender male/female and other officers?

Answer

As all PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private no officers were publicly named in relation to non-sexual misconduct cases.

Request 8

How many officers given a final written warning were granted anonymity or unnamed in non- sexual misconduct cases , can you break this down into gender male/female and other in the financial years 2018- 2022 (to date)?

Answer

As all PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private no officers in receipt of a final written warning were publicly named.

Request 9

How many officers dismissed for gross misconduct were named, can you break this down into gender of male/ female and other officers for the financial years?

Answer

As all PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private no officers dismissed for gross misconduct were publicly named.

Request 10

How many officers given a final written warning were named, can you break this down into male/female and other officers for financial years 2018-2022 (to date)?

Answer

As all PSNI misconduct hearings are conducted in private no officers in receipt of a final written warning were publicly named.

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 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.psnipolice.uk

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