



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01347

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Officers Under Investigation

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

The BBC is reporting on an alleged group of police slackers:

"There were officers sleeping on duty, there was officers bringing camp beds to work, they were bringing sleeping bags, they were setting up the briefing room to be a cinema, were going out and getting popcorn so they could all watch a movie on night shift instead of patrolling."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-61650204>

Please provide the number of officers under investigation relating to the whistleblowers' claims of slack behaviour?

Clarification to Requester

What behaviour are you referring too as there is a range of different investigations ongoing for a range of matters. Do you want all those subject to misconduct investigations at present arising from the "whistle-blower"?

Clarification from requester

Yes, I would like the number of all those presently subject to misconduct investigations arising from the "whistle-blower". I would also like a brief description of the misconduct each is being investigated for. If s40 is an issue, perhaps the information could be summarised to convey details of the alleged misconduct without attributing any of it to a single (unnamed) officer.

Answer

A total of 12 officers were reported in relation to this matter, of whom 10 have been subject to investigation. The officers are all subject to investigation for alleged inappropriate messaging on WhatsApp

Request 2

The Chief Constable has proposed changes to misconduct hearings:

'He said he has proposed reforming police misconduct hearings in Northern Ireland by replacing senior police officers with "legally-qualified chairs", who could speed up proceedings and increase public confidence in the independence of decisions.'

Please provide all information held relating to the timescale for the implementation of his proposal.

Answer

Any change to the regulations will be a matter for the Department of Justice (Northern Ireland)

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.psn.police.uk

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