



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2022-01639

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Officers Linked To Political Parties

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.

General Request

I submitted a request similar to this recently. I was looking to see if a full list of police officers and police staff who are registered as having notifiable memberships could be listed? Previously it stated those belonging to loyal orders.

Request Number 1

On this occasion could you please provide me with a list of officers who are members of a political party?

Request Number 2

Can you provide a list of political parties and the number of officers linked to each?

Request Number 3

Again, can this be done in terms of rank, showing the number of officers linked to political parties from the lowest ranking officer to highest?

Answers

There are no serving PSNI officers who have declared membership of a political party.

The Chief Constable has a 'statutory obligation under Section 51(5) of the Police of Northern Ireland Act (2000) to require each Police Officer to inform him of any notifiable membership that the Police Officer believes they have, or if they believe that they have no notifiable membership, of that belief. Section 51(1) of the Act states that a Police Officer has a notifiable membership if membership of the organisation in question might reasonably be regarded as affecting the Officer's ability to discharge their duties effectively and impartially'. The list of organisations is not exhaustive. In addition, if a Police Officer believes that they have no notifiable memberships, they are also required to notify the Chief Constable of that belief.

This information can be found in section 12 (page 16) of 'Off Duty Standards' which is available on PSNI website. For your convenience I have attached link below:

www.psnj.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/our-publications/policies-and-service-procedures/off-duty-standards-280818.pdf

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.psnj.police.uk

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