



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2022-01701

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: 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.

Request 1

Please list the total number of misconduct hearings for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Please provide a breakdown by calendar year.

Answer

PSNI held the following number of misconduct hearings:

- 2019 - 11
- 2020 - 9
- 2021 - 8
- 2022 – 13

Request 2

Please provide a breakdown by alleged type of misconduct if possible, including the number accused of abuse of position for a sexual purpose. Please provide this breakdown by calendar year

Answer

Please see below table containing breakdown of hearings by alleged type of misconduct.

Alleged type of misconduct	2019	2020	2021	2022
Abuse of authority for sexual gain		1	1	2
Animal cruelty				1
Common assault	1			
Data protection	4			2
Death in custody				1
Dishonesty in relation to medical diagnosis			1	
Dishonesty in relation to negligent discharge		1	1	
Dishonesty in relation to payment of fine		1		
Dishonesty in relation to promotion process	1			

Disorderly behaviour	1			
Domestic assault				1
Drink driving				1
Drugs			1	1
Excessive use of force		1		
Failure to investigate			1	
Fraudulent overtime claim		1		
Harassment		1		
Homophobic language	1			
Inappropriate sexual messages				1
Inappropriate sexual touching	1			
Inappropriate social media posts			1	
Inappropriate Twitter posts		1		
Inappropriate WhatsApp messages		2		
Inciting a child to engage in sexual activity			1	
Integrity issues in relation to criminal investigation	1			
Mishandling of police documents			1	
Mishandling of police property				1
No insurance or MOT and harassment	1			
Selling unauthorised decoder				1
Viewing pornography on police systems				1

Request 3

Please provide a breakdown by calendar year of the number of officers who have been dismissed from the force or would have been dismissed if they were still at the force

Answer

PSNI dismissed at a misconduct hearing the following number of Officers:

2019 - 3

2020 - 5

2021 - 7

2022 - 11

As all misconduct cases are judged on the facts of the individual case, it is not possible to state the number of officers who 'would have been dismissed' from PSNI.

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.