



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-01715

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Allegations of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Misconduct

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 number of allegations of domestic abuse and sexual misconduct, (including rape) made against serving police officers each year – from January 2017 to June 2022, including a grand total.

Answer

From January 2017 to June 2022 the following number of allegations of domestic abuse or sexual misconduct were made against police officers:

2017 - 14
2018 - 16
2019 - 29
2020 - 21
2021 - 37
2022 - 34
Total – 151

Request 2

The sex and gender of each officer against whom an allegation was made.

Answer

The sex of the accused officers was as follows:

Male - 131
Female - 18
Not known - 2

Request 3

The number of allegations that were upheld and resulted in disciplinary action – including dismissal, and the number of allegations that were discontinued.

Answer

A total of 16 allegations resulted in formal disciplinary action.

A further 11 allegations resulted in informal action such as Management Advice or a performance outcome. In these cases it is not necessarily the case that an allegation was proven.

A total of 71 allegations were discontinued, either due to the allegations being unproven or withdrawn, or the officer leaving the service. Where criminal matters have been ongoing against an officer, these investigations will continue against them as a member of the public.

There are 53 allegations still subject to ongoing investigation.

Request 4

The number of officers against whom allegations were made are still serving police officers

Answer

Of the 151 officers against whom allegations have been made, 114 are still serving officers.

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.