



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F - 2022-01845

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** PSNI Anti Corruption Unit

### 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.

I respectfully request the following in respect of the PSNI Anti-Corruption Unit:

#### Request 1

What is the stipulated remit or terms of reference or any other description of the operational practices of ACU?

#### Answer

The remit of PSNI's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) is as follows:

- To gather information internally and externally about potential wrong doing in the PSNI.
- To research and develop all information it receives about allegations of wrong doing to establish whether grounds exist to suspect criminality or a breach of the Code of Ethics. Where criminality and/or a breach of the Codes of Ethics is reasonably suspected, this will be referred to the appropriate unit for investigation.
- To investigate allegations of corruption where they fall outside the remit of Police Ombudsman (OPONI).
- To reduce threat of corruption within the police service through prevention, intelligence gathering, enforcement and reassurance.

#### Request 2

How many PSNI officers are employed in ACU (excluding any civilian staff)?

#### Answer

There are currently 21 police officers in Anti-Corruption Unit.

#### Request 3

Since its creation, how many officers have been investigated for the period 2020-2022?

#### Answer

For the period 1 January 2020 – 31 July 2022 there have been 101 investigations involving 99 police officers/police staff.

**Request 4**

How many successful prosecutions/outcomes has ACU achieved for the period 2020-2022?

**Answer 4**

For the 101 new investigations during the period 1 January 2020 – 31 July 2022 there have been four adult cautions and one informal caution. Misconduct outcomes are as follows:

- 11 x Dismissed
- 12 x Management Advice
- 1 x Advice and Guidance
- 6 x HR progressing (relates to police staff misconduct)
- 1 x Final Written Warning
- 1 x Written Warning
- 6 x Ethical Interviews
- 3 x Officer Retired
- 1 x Officer Resigned
- 2 x Procedural Change
- 2 x OPONI progressing

**Request 5**

Who are ACU (i) accountable to and (ii) regulated by?

**Answer**

ACU is under the responsibility of the Head of Professional Standards Department and internally is accountable to the Deputy Chief Constable and the governance structures within the PSNI. Externally, ACU is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

**Request 6**

What is the current annual budget allocated to ACU?

**Answer**

The information below relates to the initial budget allocation for Financial Year 22/23.

A total of £773,079 was allocated to the ACU/Vetting Cost Centre – (no budget was allocated to ACU Cost Centre specifically)

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](mailto: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/](http://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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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