

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02634

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Data Protection Act Breaches by PSNI Officers 1988 - 1993

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Can you please advise me how many RUC officers were detected breaching the Data Protection Act in each of the years between its introduction in 1988 and 1993, and the penalty imposed in each case?

Request 2

If any officer was prosecuted through the criminal courts, can you please provide a date of conviction?

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 (PSNI) does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

Accordingly, we have determined that the PSNI does not hold the information to which you seek access.

The information requested covers a timeframe that predates the formation of the PSNI. The current department that would hold the information under the 'Review, Retention and Disposal Schedule V3' did not exist during the period of your request as it was established in 2007. Previously held information has since been destroyed in accordance with local retention policies and procedures that existed between the years 1988 – 1993 therefore there is no record of the decision to destroy.

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.psni.police.uk

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