



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00260

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Discipline

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

How many (a) police officers and (b) police staff were disciplined in the last calendar year (2019) for improper/illegal or inappropriate use of the PNC/Force intelligence data systems?

Answer

PSNI Record Owners have advised that there were Nine police officers and Ten police staff disciplined during 2019 for inappropriate use of the PSNI data systems.

Request 2

How many related to (i) vehicle data, (ii) personal data or (iii) other data breaches?

Answer

PSNI Record Owners have advised with regards to Police Officers, One of these cases related to vehicle data, Nine cases related to personal data, and Six cases related to other data. Please note that most cases related to more than one type of data.

With regards to Police Staff, there were Two cases that related to Vehicle data and Eight cases related to Historical data breaches for 2019.

Request 3

Please provide for each incident a brief description, which should include

- (i) the month of the incident
- (ii) the nature of the offence or breach of force policy
- (iii) if the person was an officer or a member or civilian staff
- (iv) how the matter was resolved, i.e. written warning, sacked etc.

Note: Please could you provide the data in the same way that past data has been provided in the attached image.

Answer

PSNI Record Owners have provided the information requested in the table below.

Month	Nature of Offence	Police/Staff	Outcome
February	Viewed data relating to family member	Police	Management Advice
February	Disclosure of confidential police information	Police	Written Warning
March	Viewed data relating to neighbours	Police	Final Written Warning
April	Viewing data relating to family member and compromise of access to police data systems	Police	Dismissed with Notice
April	Viewed data relating to family members	Police	Dismissed with Notice
August	Viewed data relating to family members	Police	Written Warning
August	Viewed data relating to themselves and their neighbours	Police	Final Written Warning
November	Viewed data relating to themselves and other individuals	Police	Final Written Warning
November	Viewed data relating to themselves and a family member	Police	Written Warning
February	Historical Data Protection Breach	Police Staff	Informal Verbal Warning
February	Vehicle Data, Personal Data	Police Staff	Informal Verbal Warning
September	Historical Data Protection Breach	Police Staff	Informal Written Warning
October	Historical Data Protection Breach	Police Staff	Informal Written Warning

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 were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office 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. 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 his 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.