

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00489

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers Racist Behaviour

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.

Clarification to requester

Can you please advise if you are requesting the information for investigations carried out by the Police Ombudsman for N Ireland (PONI), and or PSNI's Professional Standards Department ? Under S16, if the request is for both aspects it is likely that the request would exceed the FOI legislative cost of 18 hours.

Clarification from requester

Please can you focus this particular request on investigations carried out by PSNI's Professional Standards Department between 2015 and 2020 please.

Request 1

Please can you provide a breakdown for the number of police officers that have been investigated, reprimanded or sacked for racist behaviour in each calendar year from 2015 to 2020?

Answer

During the requested period a total of 11 officers have been investigated by Professional Standards for alleged racist behaviour.

Request 2

Can you also provide details of the incidents that led to disciplinary action taking place and the outcome of that action?

Answer

The detail of the incidents in which disciplinary action took place is as follows:

- Use of racist language
- Sharing of racist material on WhatsApp
- Alleged racist posts on social media
- Display of sign with potential racist implications

The following discipline outcomes resulted from incidents of alleged racist behaviour:

Required to resign x 1 officer
Management Action x 2 officers
Written Warning x 1 officer

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.