

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-00542

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** PSNI Substance Misuse Policy and Appeals in last 5 years

### 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 sought

Can you please provide clarification reference Request Number 2 -  
What are the appeals that are being referred to – appeals against outcomes of misconduct meetings, hearings, both, or something else?

### Clarification received

My question about appeals refers to appeals made in relation to the Substance Misuse policy ie. how many appeals were made following 'positive' test results and how many appeals were made against the process. I would also like to know how many appeals against Substance Misuse results were successful.

### Request 1

Could I please have a copy of the PSNI Substance Misuse Policy?

### Answer

The PSNI's substance misuse policy is available on the PSNI website at the following link:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/our-publications/policies-and-service-procedures/substance-misuse-191017.pdf>

### Request 2

Could I ask how many appeals have there been and how many have been successful in the last 5 years

### Answer

During the last five years there were three appeals against the result of a positive test. One of the appeals was successful and returned a negative result. There were no appeals against the process itself.

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 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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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