

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-00960

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Rape Investigations

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 you the Requester

Can you please advise if you are seeking data on both internal matters dealt with by PSNI and / or external allegations dealt with by the Police Ombudsman for N Ireland (PONI).

Clarification from you the Requester

Please can I have data, primarily, on the internal matters dealt with by PSNI in the years specified.

If it will not incur a cost exemption, and you have access to this data, I would also like external allegations dealt with by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI). However, if you predict that it will incur a cost exemption before undertaking the work, then please consider my request only for internal matters dealt with by PSNI. I hope this clarifies my request for you.

Request 1 A

1a) How many allegations against officers or members of staff within your force have been made for:

- i) failing to record a victim's allegation of rape on the Police system
- ii) failing to "adequately" investigate the allegation of rape, or conduct "sufficient" investigations into the allegation
- iii) failing to take appropriate action to safeguard the alleged victim from future harm from the alleged perpetrator

In the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and from the beginning of 2021 to the present day? Please could you provide this information broken down by calendar year.

Please note: for guidance on terms such as "adequately" and "sufficient", I refer to definitions outlined in your force's Standards of Professional Behaviour relating to rape allegations; investigating rape allegations and safeguarding victims of rape, and any appropriate code of conduct.

Answer

There have been no allegations made against officers or police staff of -: i) failure to record an allegation of rape or ii) failure to adequately investigate an allegation of rape or iii) failure to

safeguard victims from future harm for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and from the beginning of 2021 to the June 2021.

Request 2 A

2a) How many officers or members of staff within your force have been disciplined AND/OR dismissed for:

- i) failing to record a victim's allegation of rape on the Police system
- ii) failing to "adequately" investigate the allegation of rape, or "conduct sufficient investigations" into the allegation
- iii) failing to take appropriate action to safeguard the alleged victim from future harm from the alleged perpetrator?

In the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and from the beginning of 2021 to the present day? Please could you provide this information broken down by calendar year and by whether the action taken was disciplinary or dismissal.

Request 2 B

2b) For each disciplinary AND/OR dismissal, please could you provide any further details of the actions that led to the officer/staff member's disciplinary AND/OR dismissal, and details of the nature of the disciplinary action e.g. final written warning.

Answers

There have been no officers or police staff disciplined or dismissed for i) failure to record an allegation of rape or ii) failure to adequately investigate an allegation of rape or iii) failure to safeguard victims from future harm for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and from the beginning of 2021 to the June 2021.

It should be noted that this response **only** relates to **internal allegations investigated by PSNI's Professional Standards Department and does not include** allegations made by members of the public to the Police Ombudsman For N Ireland (PONI) as to do so would place the request in excess of the FOI legislative cost of 18 hours as set by the Secretary of State.

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.

