



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01001

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Reported For Drug Offences

Request and 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 does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

How many police officers have been reported for drug offences for each year 2016-20?

Answer

A total of 8 officers have been reported for drugs offences during 2016-2020.

Request 2

How many police officers have been dismissed for drug offences for each year 2016-20?

Answer

A total of 2 officers have been dismissed for drugs offences during 2016-2020.

Of the reported 6 officers who were not dismissed it should be noted that in 4 of these cases investigations are still ongoing, in 1 case the officer resigned prior to the conclusion of misconduct proceedings, and in 1 case enquiries revealed that the substance in question was not illegal drugs.

Request 3

How many police officers have been arrested for drug offences for each year 2016-20? As an extra – if possible within compliance limits - Can you provide any details of the outcome of that arrest?

Answer

A total of 2 officers have been arrested for drugs offences during 2016-2020. There is no outcome for these arrests as they are still ongoing.

Request 4

Can you provide any details that you have in place to ensure an impartial response when police officers are reported for drug offences?

Answer

There is no specific guidance in place to ensure an impartial response in relation to police officers

being reported for drugs offences. Service Instruction 4/16 does however state that 'where there has been a breach of the Code of Ethics the PSNI will deal with it in a fair, proportionate and timely manner'.

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.psni.police.uk

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