



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01018

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officers Accused Of Sexual Misconduct

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 clarify if you wish to include both matters reported internally, and those reported to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI)? PSNI can advise that if you wish to include matters reported to PONI this will place the request over cost.

Clarification from requester

Thanks for your response, in that case please can you just provide information on cases reported internally. Are you also able to provide the number of those cases reported internally that were later referred on to the PONI after review by the force?

Request 1

Please provide the number of police officers, PCSOs and special constables who have been accused of sexual misconduct within your force for the financial years 2017-18 to 2020-21? Please provide this data broken down by financial year.

Answer

2017/18 – 5 officers
2018/19 – 7 officers
2019/20 – 13 officers
2020/21 – 10 officers

Request 2

Of those cases, please provide:

- (a) The type of sexual misconduct reported, i.e. having sex on duty, sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape.
- (b) The number of cases referred to the IOPC
- (c) The number of cases where the officer had previously been reported for misconduct.

Answer

The type of sexual misconduct reported was as follows:

2017/18

Sexual assault
Voyeurism and making indecent images of children
Sexual assault
Sending sexually explicit messages
Rape

2018/19

Sexual assault
Possession of extreme pornography
Possession of extreme pornography
Buggery and indecent assault
Abuse of position for sexual gain
Rape
Rape

2019/20

Possession of extreme pornography
Sexual assault
Purchasing sexual services
Indecent assault
Sexual assault
Indecent behaviour
Sexual assault
Rape
Sexual assault
Inappropriate sexual comments
Rape
Possession of child pornography
Purchasing sexual services

2020/21

Sexual assault
Sexual assault
Sexual assault
Rape
Accessing pornography on police systems
Rape
Possession of child pornography
Sexual assault
Rape
Rape

(b) One case was referred to Police Ombudsman Northern Ireland (PONI) in 2018/19, all other cases were investigated by Professional Standards.

(c) The following number of cases involved officers who had previously been reported for some form of misconduct:

2017/18 5 cases
2018/19 5 cases
2019/20 9 cases

2020/21 10 cases

Request 3

Of those cases not referred to the IOPC, please provide the outcome, i.e. dismissed, resigned, written warning etc.

Answer

Of those cases not referred to PONI, the following outcomes resulted from the investigation:

2017/18

NFA (No Further Action)

Resigned

Written warning

Resigned

NFA

2018/19

NFA

Dismissed

Written warning

NFA

Dismissed without notice

NFA

NFA

2019/20

NFA

NFA

NFA

NFA

NFA

Management action

Ongoing

NFA

Retired

Resigned

NFA

Resigned

Resigned

2020/21

Management action

Ongoing

NFA

NFA

Retired

Ongoing

Ongoing

NFA

Management action

Ongoing

Please note

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) is the Northern Ireland equivalent to IOPC.

The PSNI does not have PCSOs or special constables. There are full and part time police officers.

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.