

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02086

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Coronavirus (Covid 19) Law Breaches

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.

Request 1

How many police officers/staff/PCSOs have been reported to have broken coronavirus legislation between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2020? Please break down by officers, PCSOs and other staff and by the following:

The number of officers/staff/PCSOs who were reported to your force either externally or internally on suspicion of breaking coronavirus legislation in the time frame given above.

The number of officers/PCSOs/staff who faced external or internal investigation after being suspected of breaching coronavirus rules.

Answer

A total of 7 Police Officers have been reported to have broken coronavirus legislation between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2020. A total of 5 of these officers have faced internal misconduct investigation.

There are no Police Staff disciplines of this nature.

In addition please note that PSNI do not have the rank of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Request 2

Of these, again broken down by officers, PCSOs or other staff, please state how many:

- Faced disciplinary action
- Were given a warning
- Were issued a fine
- Faced other action (please state)
- Faced no action
- Case is still ongoing.

Answer

The following outcomes have resulted from the 7 Police Officers reported to have broken coronavirus legislation between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2020:

A total of 5 cases are currently ongoing. A total of 1 was resulted as 'Management action' and a total of 1 was resulted as 'no further action'.

This request is not applicable for police staff.

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.psn.police.uk

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