



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02305

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: PSNI Officers and Staff Sexual Misconduct 2016 - 2021

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 PSNI officers and staff have faced sexual misconduct allegations in each of the past five years?

Clarification requested

Do you wish to include both internally and externally investigated allegations of sexual misconduct with regards to your request?

Clarification received

Internally investigated.

Answer

Please see below in respect of request 1:

- 2017 – 4
- 2018 – 6
- 2019 – 14
- 2020 – 14
- 2021 (to date) – 14

Request 2

How many PSNI officers and staff have been charged with sexual misconduct offences in each of the past five years?

Answer

Please see below in respect of request 2:

- 2017 – 3
- 2018 – 3

- 2019 – 2
- 2020 – 2
- 2021 (to date) – 0

Please note: These figures relate to officers who have been served with a Regulations 23 notice after investigation, advising them that they are subject to formal misconduct charges. This does not account for other cases which may still be ongoing, and where misconduct charges may yet be brought against an officer.

Request 3

How many PSNI officers and staff have been dismissed following investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct in each of the past five years?

Answer

Please see below in respect of request 3:

- 2017 – 1
- 2018 – 0
- 2019 – 1
- 2020 – 1
- 2021 (to date) – 2

Request 4

How many sexual misconduct allegations made against PSNI officers and staff were withdrawn in each of the last five years?

Answer

Please see below in respect to request 4:

- 2017 – 0 cases
- 2018 – 0 cases
- 2019 – 1 case
- 2020 – 0 cases
- 2021 (to date) – 0 cases

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.