



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-02327

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** PSNI Staff and Officers Sexual Offences 2016-2021

### 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 some information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

How many members of civilian staff have been charged with a sexual offence in the five years between September 2016 and September 2021?

#### Request 2

How many members of civilian staff have been convicted of a sexual offence in the five years between September 2016 and September 2021?

#### Answer 1 and 2

In response to your request regarding 'Civilian Staff' 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 not hold information in relation to your requests.

Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided, whilst PSNI Human Resources Department do not conduct misconduct hearings, with regards to staff disciplines there have been no disciplines which specify 'sexual misconduct' for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021.

Accordingly, we have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

#### Request 3

How many police officers have been charged with a sexual offence in the five years between September 2016 and September 2021?

#### Answer

A total of 5 PSNI Officers have been charged with a sexual offence between September 2016 and September 2021.

**Please note:** As investigations into some matters may still be ongoing, further convictions may yet result from the above cases.

#### **Request 4**

How many police officers have been convicted of a sexual offence in the five years between September 2016 and September 2021?

#### **Answer**

A total of 3 PSNI Officers have been convicted of a sexual offence between September 2016 and September 2021.

#### **Request 5**

In all instances above can you provide a breakdown of the specific offences which make up the total and how many there are of each?

#### **Answer**

The offences for which a PSNI officer has received a 'conviction' for are as follows:

- Officer 1 - Voyeurism / Making an indecent photograph of a child / Possessing an indecent photograph of a child
- Officer 2 – Misconduct in a public office (inappropriate sexual relationship)
- Officer 3 – Misconduct in a public office (inappropriate sexual relationship)

The offences for which a PSNI officer has been 'charged' with are as follows:

- Officer 1 - Voyeurism / Making an indecent photograph of a child / Possessing an indecent photograph of a child
- Officer 2 - Misconduct in a public office (inappropriate sexual relationship)
- Officer 3 - Misconduct in a public office (inappropriate sexual relationship)
- Officer 4 - Sexual assault / Indecent assault / Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity
- Officer 5 - Sexual assault / Misconduct in a public office (inappropriate sexual relationship)

**The Police Service expects all officers and staff to behave ethically and with the utmost integrity at all times both on and off duty. Any officer who fails to abide by the high standards of behaviour expected of all officers as laid out in our Code of Ethics can expect to be rigorously investigated. Officers who fall short of this can expect to be subject to internal misconduct proceedings as is normal procedure following the conclusion of criminal proceedings.**

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](mailto: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/](http://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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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