

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02931

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Substance Misuse 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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following:

Request 1

How many false positive substance misuse tests there has been in the last 5 years?

Answer

PSNI can advise that there have been no false positive substance misuse tests in the last 5 years.

Request 2

Where there has been a false positive result, how many police officers have lost their job or been refused a position within the PSNI?

Answer

Due to the answer for Request 1 being 0, Request 2 is not applicable.

Request 3

How many positive results have resulted in police officers having lost their job or been refused a position within the PSNI?

Clarification:

Point 3 refers to persons applying for the PSNI to become an officer and current officers within the Organisation.

Answer

As a result of a positive substance misuse test 1 officer was dismissed from the PSNI, and 6 applicants to the PSNI were refused appointment during the past 5 years.

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.