



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02276

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Misconduct and Complaints

Subject: Review of Domestic Abuse/Exposure/VAWG Related Allegations

Request and Answer:

Request

In October 2021 the NPCC asked police forces to conduct reviews into handling of reports of domestic abuse / exposure / other VAWG related allegations involving police officers and staff.

- Please disclose to me, under the Freedom of Information Act, any findings / data / reports / reviews by your police force in response to this request from the NPCC.

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 not hold information in relation to your request. 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.

- The PSNI did not provide any response in relation to the NPCC request of October 2021.

Advice from NPCC

- On 08 October 2021 Martin Hewitt (NPCC Chair) wrote to forces outlining key requirements in relation to vetting and professional standards and asking forces to conduct their own internal reviews. However, there was no request for forces to submit a return to the NPCC and no commitment from the NPCC to coordinate this. Attached to the letter was a messaging pack produced by NPCC communications team to be used by NPCC to inform stakeholder, government, political and media briefings as well as messaging into local communities. This FOI request does not capture this VAWG framework action.

Separate to this communication from Mr Hewitt was a subsequent action set out in the VAWG framework published in December 2021 which asked forces to review their VAWG misconduct cases and provide feedback on the learning and outcomes of the force independent reviews. VAWG will publish the outcome of their findings. This FOI request does not capture this VAWG framework action

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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

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