



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-03196

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Misconduct and Complaints

Subject: Section 127 of the Communications Act Breaches

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

Request

I'm requesting information regarding the following:

Request 1

How many police officers/staff in your force have been investigated for breaching Section 127 of the Communications Act from January 2019 to December 2022?

Answer 1

A total of 8 Police officers/staff have been investigated during this period.

Request 2

How many police officers/staff in your force have been convicted of breaching Section 127 of the Communications Act from January 2019 to December 2022?

Answer 2

No Police officers or Police staff have been convicted during this period.

Request 3

Of those convicted, what were the offences?

Answer 3

No Police officers or Police staff have been convicted during this period.

Request 4

Of those investigated, how many are still working?

Answer 4

Of the 8 Police officers/staff investigated, 4 are still working.

Please note:

- Where investigations may still be ongoing, and a conviction may result from the investigation, an officer could potentially be dismissed from the PSNI.

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.psni.police.uk

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