



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00580

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Misconduct and Complaints

Subject: Officer/Staff Misconduct: Various Offences

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

Request

I would like details of official complaints in the following categories, made against serving police officers in the force under your remit in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 so far:

- Sexual harassment
- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Child sex offences
- Other sexual misconduct

Specifically, for each category, I would like you to disclose:

Clarification Sought

Please clarify do by 'official complaints made against serving officers' you mean complaints made to Police Ombudsman Northern Ireland, directly to PSNI or both.

Clarification Received

RUC / PSNI only. I have just made the same request to PONI for those made to it directly Answer.

Request 1

How many accusations were made against serving police officers?

Answer

Please see the table below which shows the number of sexual allegations that have been made against PSNI officers.

Year	Sexual Harassment	Rape	Sexual Assault	Child Sex Offences	Other Sexual Misconduct
2018/19	0	2	1	0	10

2019/20	2	3	1	1	11
2020/21	0	3	5	2	3
2021/22	1	8	7	1	13
2022/23	3	3	5	0	35

Please note: the answers provided for all requests for 2022/23 are up to 3rd March 2023.

Request 2

How many allegations were upheld?

Answer

Please see the table below which shows the number of allegations upheld.

Year	Number of Allegations Upheld
2018/19	2
2019/20	1
2020/21	2
2021/22	5
2022/23	0

Please note: where investigations are still ongoing, allegations may yet be proven with a resulting misconduct outcome.

Request 3

How many of these upheld charges resulted in formal disciplinary action, and what actions they were?

Answer

Please see the table below which shows the details of the formal sanctions issued.

Year	Details of Formal Sanction
2018/19	Written warning x 2
2019/20	Dismissed without notice x 1
2020/21	Dismissed without notice x 2
2021/22	Dismissed without notice x 2, final written warning x 1
2022/23	0

Please note: all allegations resulted in formal sanctions.

Request 4

I'm also requesting that you break this down by a) the sex of the accused, b) the seniority of the accused.

Answer

Please see the table below which shows sex of the accused and seniority of the accused.

Year	Male	Female	Chief Inspector & above	Inspector & below
2018/19	13	0	1	12
2019/20	17	1	0	18
2020/21	13	0	0	13
2021/22	28	1	0	29
2022/23	38	8	5	41

Request 5

Confirm whether the complaint was made by;

- a) a member of the public
- b) a police officer / member of police staff

Answer

Please see table below which shows whom the complaint was made by.

Year	Member of Public	Police Officer/Member of Staff	Not Applicable
2018/19	8	1	4
2019/20	9	4	5
2020/21	7	3	3
2021/22	17	4	8
2022/23	10	28	8

Please note: not applicable means that there was no specific complainant but that the offences came to light through other means/enquiries.

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.