



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2023-00864

**Keyword:** Organisational Information Police/Staff Misconduct and Complaints

**Subject:** Disciplinary Proceedings

### 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

In the years 2016 to present the number of cases referred by the PSNI to a misconduct hearing under Regulation 21 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 on a per year basis?

#### Answer

Please see the table below which shows the number of cases that have been referred for misconduct hearing under Regulation 21 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 per year from 2016 – present (up to and including 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023)

Year	Number of Cases
2016	0
2017	6
2018	10
2019	12
2020	7
2021	7
2022	30
2023 - present	4

#### Please note:

- The above figures do not include cases heard under the 2000 Police Misconduct Regulations.
- The number of misconduct hearings scheduled during 2020 and 2021 was limited due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Request 2

Of those cases referred to a misconduct hearing please provide details of the number each year in which a breach of the Code of Ethics was found.

## Answer

Please see the table below which shows the number of cases where a breach of the Code of Ethics was proven per year from 2016 – present (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023)

Year	Number of Cases
2016	0
2017	5
2018	8
2019	9
2020	7
2021	7
2022	30
2023 - present	4

## Request 3

Please also provide an annual breakdown where a breach of the Code of Ethics is found, the number of cases in which that breach is deemed to be misconduct and the number of cases in which that breach is deemed to be gross misconduct.

## Answer

In all cases where a breach of the Code of Ethics was found, the breach was proven to be gross misconduct.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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