



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-01490

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Misconduct and Complaints

Subject: Officer Misconduct

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:

Clarification to Requester:

In relation to your requests concerning investigations, do you wish to include investigations carried out by PSNI, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI), or both? Please note that including investigations carried out by PONI may make your request overcost (based on previous requests of a similar nature).

Clarification from requester:

I should imagine that details of the suspension and repositioning of officers should be easily retrieved. As would those of officers denied promotion opportunities. With regards to officers under investigation, just limit this to PSNI investigative processes as I can approach PONI directly for their figures.

Request 1

As of 3rd May, how many warranted officers are currently suspended from duty? Please indicate the numbers of suspended officers at each rank, and if they are suspended for alleged non-criminal misconduct or alleged criminality.

Answer

There are currently 56 officers suspended from duty. 48 of these are for alleged criminality and 8 are for alleged misconduct. The table below shows the breakdown in rank:

Rank of Officer	Number of Officers
Chief Inspector and above	1
Inspector	1
Sergeant	8
Constable	46

Please note: due to the low numbers involved and to avoid the potential identification of individuals, ranks of Chief Inspector and above have been combined together. This is applicable for answers to

Requests 1 – 5.

Request 2

As of 3rd May, how many warranted officers are currently repositioned as a result of being under investigation for alleged misconduct? Please indicate the numbers of repositioned officers at each rank.

Answer

There are currently 62 officers repositioned to alternate duties. The table below shows the breakdown in rank:

Rank of Officer	Number of Officers
Chief Inspector and above	2
Inspector	1
Sergeant	7
Constable	52

Request 3

As of 3rd May, how many warranted officers are currently under investigation for alleged misconduct? (Whether or not they have been suspended, repositioned, or left in post). Please indicate the numbers of officers under investigation at each rank.

Answer

There are currently 36 officers under investigation by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department for alleged misconduct. The table below show the breakdown by rank:

Rank of Officer	Number of Officers
Sergeant	5
Constable	31

Request 4

As of 3rd May, how many warranted officers are currently under investigation for alleged gross misconduct? (Whether or not they have been suspended, repositioned or left in post). Please indicate the numbers of officers under investigation at each rank.

Answer

There are currently 183 officers under investigation by Professional Standards for alleged gross misconduct. The table below shows the breakdown in rank:

Rank of Officer	Number of Officers
Chief Inspector and above	2
Inspector	8
Sergeant	25
Constable	148

Request 5

As of 3rd May, how many warranted officers are currently under investigation for alleged criminal offences? (Whether or not they have been suspended, repositioned or left in post). Please indicate the numbers of officers under investigation at each rank.

Answer

There are currently 140 officer under investigation by the PSNI's Professional Standards Department for alleged criminal offences. The table below show the breakdown by rank:

Rank of Officer	Number of Officers
Chief Inspector and above	1

Inspector	4
Sergeant	20
Constable	115

Request 6

As of 3rd May, how many officers have been prevented from being promoted from the most recent rounds of promotion processes at each rank by reason of being under investigation for alleged misconduct or criminality? Please indicate the numbers at each rank. (Eg number of constables who have passed the constable to sergeant promotion process but are currently prevented from being offered a promotion by reason of the misconduct investigation process, and the same for promotion to higher ranks).

Answer

For the most recent Sergeant to Inspector promotion process, 2 officers were prevented from being promoted from the most recent allocation process (May 23) by reason of being under investigation for alleged misconduct or criminality.

For the most recent Constable to Sergeant promotion process, 9 officers were prevented from being promoted from the most recent allocation process (January 2022) by reason of being under investigation for alleged misconduct or criminality.

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.