

The Chief Constable's Order

Issue: 2001/47

Item 2 - Police officers convicted of drink-driving offences

The Home Office and the police are committed to reducing incidents of drink-driving, both generally and within the service. The damage to the reputation of the service by officers convicted of these offences cannot be overstated, and detracts from the credibility of the service in this crucial area of law enforcement.

Police officer

If you are convicted by a court of a drink-driving offence you can expect to face a formal disciplinary hearing. The usual sanction is either dismissal or requirement to resign, to reflect the seriousness with which these offences are viewed both within the service and by society generally.

Member of misconduct panel

You should treat each case on its merits, but you should apply your judgement to the facts to consider whether an alternative sanction could be justified.

Aggravating factors include:

- o that the offence was committed on duty;
- o that the defendant has attempted to avoid arrest;
- o the defendant attempting to interfere with due process particularly by leaving the scene or by improperly using his or her position as a police officer;
- o a particularly high alcohol reading; or
- o that the offence derives from a traffic accident or other incident involving a member of the public.

Only in exceptional circumstances and where there are none of these aggravating factors should you impose a lesser sanction. Reasons should be clearly set out and recorded.