



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-05306

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PURCHASE OFHECKLER & KOCH WEAPONS

Request:

Question 1 - On what date did the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) purchase and then issue to the members of the force the Heckler and Koch (H&K) firearms system?

Question 2 - What other weapon systems were considered and assessed by the Firearms Training Unit as an alternative to the H&K System?

Answer:

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access. It has been established that the records relating to your request were destroyed in 2003 due to contamination.

However, the PSNI can provide the following information in relation to the test firing of the weapons by the PSNI, which may be of use of to you.

MP5 Weapon was first test fired in 1984 with a second batch tested in 1991.
G3 Weapon was first test fired in 1993

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 Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. 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 his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

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