



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00845

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: LOST / STOLEN POLICE ITEMS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many of the following - a) firearms, b) body armour, c) handcuffs, d) CS spray, e) batons, f) warrant cards, g) police radios, h) bicycles, or i) uniforms have been either lost by Police officers or civilian staff or have been stolen in the last five years?

You subsequently accepted refinement of this question so that it included items of listed equipment the loss or theft of which has been reported to Professional Standards Department (PSD).

Answer

The following list relates to police issue equipment the loss or theft of which has been reported to PSD and does not include details of items reported as 'missing' and located within a short period of time. This would not represent an exhaustive list of all police property lost or stolen within the last five calendar years.

- a) Firearms - 0 lost, 4 stolen
- b) Body armour- 0 lost or stolen
- c) Handcuffs - 2 lost
- d) CS Spray - 3 lost 2 stolen
- e) Batons - 2 lost 3 stolen
- f) Warrant cards - 3 lost 1 stolen (these figures relate only to those that were reported to PSD)
- g) Police radios - 4 lost 2 stolen
- h) Bicycles - 0 lost or stolen
- i) Uniforms - 1 patrol cap, 1 police baseball cap and 1 pair of riot gloves lost. 2 police baseball caps, 2 sets of shoulder numerals, RUC buttons, 1 PSNI cap badge, 1 police shirt, 2 high visibility vests and 1 police tie stolen.

In addition, the following table outlines Warrant Cards/Passes either lost by Police officers or civilian staff or stolen in the last five years. This would be inclusive of the items at (f) above.

YEAR	Lost	Stolen	Grand Total
2004	29	12	41
2005	15	5	20
2006	12	4	16
2007	27	8	35
2008	36	8	44
2009	3	2	5
Grand Total	122	39	161

Question 2

How many a) Police squad cars or non-marked cars and b) motorbikes have been stolen in each of the past five years?

Answer

In the past 5 years, one marked police car and one unmarked police car have been stolen. Both were recovered a short time after the theft. There are no records of any motorcycles having been stolen.

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 Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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.