



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01740

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** FIREARMS

### Request and Answer:

I have today decided to:

- disclose records in answer to questions numbered 1 to 2 in full and;
- fully exempt records in answer to question numbered 4 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Act;

I have previously written to advise you that the time limit for responding to question 3 your request for information needs to be extended.

#### Question 1

Can you tell me how many legally-owned firearms have been stolen in each district each year for the past three years?

#### Answer

Please see attached documents.

#### Question 2

Can you further break down what type of firearm they are (rifle, handgun etc)?

#### Answer

Please see attached documents.

Please note that the information released in response to questions 1 and 2 is broken across two tables and is in different formats, i.e., financial years and calendar years. This is because the system on which this information is recorded changed in April 2007. Further, information not relevant to questions 1 or 2 has been subject to redaction and marked "Not Relevant to Request".

#### Question 4

Can you tell me how many of the stolen weapons were police weapons?

#### Answer

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Section 21 of the Act provides that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means is exempt information.

The information you have requested is available from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Publication Scheme. To access our Publication Scheme please visit our website at [http://www.psnl.police.uk/police\\_weapons\\_lost\\_stolen.pdf](http://www.psnl.police.uk/police_weapons_lost_stolen.pdf)

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](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

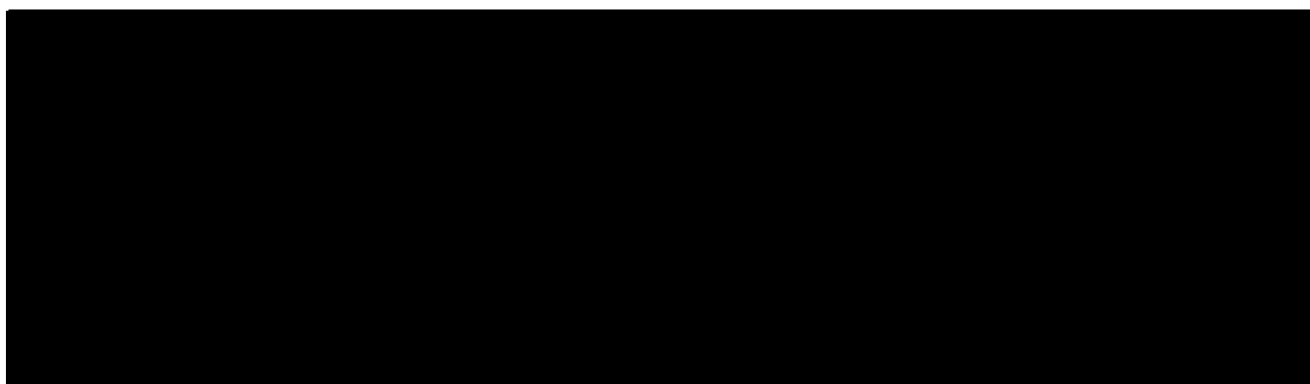
If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate 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.

How many legally owned firearms have been stolen in each district each year for past three years?								
District/ Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1/4/07- 31/12/07	1	0	5	1	1	1	1	1
1/1/08- 31/12/08	0	6	2	1	1	2	4	1
1/1/09- Present	0	1	0	2	6	1	0	1

What type of firearms have been stolen in each district each year for past three years?								
District/ Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1/4/07- 31/12/07	Shotgun	0	3 Shotguns, 1 Revolver, 1 Handgun	Shotgun	Handgun	Semi- Automatic gun	Shotgun	Shotgun
1/1/08- 31/12/08	0	1 Pistol, 2 Rifles, 3 Shotguns	1 Handgun, 1 Shotgun	Shotgun	Shotgun	2 Shotguns	3 Rifles 1 Shotgun	Shotgun
1/1/09- Present	0	Pistol	0	2 Shotguns	6 Shotguns	Shotgun	0	Shotgun



**Not relevant to Request**

**Legally Owned Firearms Stolen in Each District for  
the Period 01/04/06 - 31/03/07**

<b>District</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Number</b>
A	SHOTGUN	1
B	PISTOL	1
B	REVOLVER	1
C	AIR PISTOL	2
C	AIR RIFLE	4
C	SHOTGUN	3
D	AIR RIFLE	4
D	HANDGUN	2
D	RIFLE	1
D	SHOTGUN	8
E	AIR RIFLE	3
E	HANDGUN	1
E	SHOTGUN	9
F	AIR RIFLE	2
F	RIFLE	5
F	SHOTGUN	14
G	SHOTGUN	1
H	AIR PISTOL	1
H	AIR RIFLE	2
H	HANDGUN	2
H	PISTOL	1
H	REVOLVER	2
H	RIFLE	1
H	SHOTGUN	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>

**Not relevant to Request**



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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01740

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** FIREARMS (Cont)

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 3

Can you tell me how many stolen, legally owned firearms have been recovered by police each year for the past three years and what type of firearm has been recovered by police in that period?

In relation to question 3 the information is not held in an easily retrievable format. However, staff have conducted a manual file-by-file search, within the cost threshold to supply this information and the decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you.

#### Answer 3

Please see attached record.

Year	Shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Air Rifles
2006	14	3	4	1
2007	21	Nil	7	4
2008*	5	2	2	1

\*2008 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.