



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00147

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF WEAPON CAUSING PERSONAL INJURY

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

The information has been obtained from records held within the Professional Standards Department of the PSNI, which has responsibility for internal discipline.

Question: How many members have accidentally shot themselves or each other in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 (clarified as referring to police officers and accidental shootings where an official police issue weapon was discharged on or off duty)?

Answer: The following information relates to police officers who accidentally shot **themselves** as a consequence of negligent discharges. No other police officer was shot as a consequence of the discharges.

2004 - 1 officer
2005 - 2 officers
2006 - 1 officer
2007 - None
2008 - 1 officer.

A negligent discharge may be defined as the negligent discharge of a weapon caused by an act, which could and should have been foreseen and prevented. This act would be accompanied by a degree of negligence or recklessness.

Whilst the PSNI takes seriously the discharge of police firearms, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall size of the PSNI i.e. just under 9000 officers at date of request and the fact that the Service is routinely armed. 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.