



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00176

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: FIREARMS LOST, STOLEN OR MISSING IN COUNTY TYRONE

Request and Answer:

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

Question 1

How many legally held firearms were reported stolen within the District Command Unit areas in County Tyrone (Dungannon/South Tyrone, Cookstown, Omagh and Strabane) during the 2008 calendar year?

Answer

Please refer to the attached pdf document 0000002061 below.

Question 2

How many legally held firearms were reported lost/missing from each of the above areas during the 2008 calendar year?

Answer

During the 2008 calendar year there were a total of 9 firearms reported lost/missing in the four DCU areas:

Dungannon and South Tyrone = 6

Cookstown = 1

Omagh = 1

Strabane = 1

It should be noted that the statistics produced relate to the date on which PSNI was notified of the loss and does not directly correlate to the date the firearm went missing.

Question 3

How many crimes involving firearms were reported to the PSNI in each of the above areas during the 2008 calendar year?

Question 4

In how many of the incidents referred to in question 3 were firearms (criminally) used to cause physical injury?

Answer

Please refer to the attached pdf document 0000002061 below.

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.psnipolice.uk/>

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

Recorded Burglary, Theft and Robbery offences where the property stolen is Firearms^{1,2} and recorded offences where a Firearm² was involved in the incident³

2008

	Property stolen includes firearms²	Offences where firearm involved²
Dungannon & South Tyrone	4	13
Cookstown	2	13
Omagh	0	7
Strabane	1	13
Total	7	46

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Of the 46 offences in 2008 where a firearm was involved, 18 were violent offences (Offences against the person, Sexual Offences or Robberies), 7 of which were reported as having victims with a physical injury. It is not known if the injuries were as a result of the firearms being used.

¹ It is not possible to identify if the firearms were legally held or not.

² Types of firearms include guns, handguns, imitations, pistols, rifles/long arms, shotgun, slaughtering, air pistol, air rifle and revolver.

³ The figures relate to crimes where a firearm was involved in the incident – it is not known how the firearm was actually used, or whether the firearm was discharged.

Please note that these figures are provisional and may be subject to revision