



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02254

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: USE OF FIREARMS ON ANIMALS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Do the PSNI consider it lawful to dispatch a deer using a handgun authorised for the humane dispatch of animals on firearm certificates issued by the PSNI - the condition of use included on the firearm certificate does not stipulate which species of animal?

Question 2

Does/will the PSNI FEB issue a firearm certificate for the humane dispatch of deer using a handgun for deer stalkers/managers as a means of follow up dispatch for wounded deer shot initially with a deer legal rifle?

Question 3

Does/will the PSNI FEB issue a firearm certificate for the humane dispatch of deer using a handgun for deer seriously injured in road traffic collisions?

Answer

Guidance on the licensing of firearms for the humane dispatch of animals is provided in Appendix 3, Paragraph 34 of the Northern Ireland Office published document Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearms Controls.

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 request may be located at the following website:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/guidance_on_northern_ireland_firearms_controls_revised_01_june_2006.pdf?keywords=firearms

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.