



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02126

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: ARTICLE 63 OF THE FIREARMS (NI) ORDER 2004

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. However, with regard to Question 2, the searches conducted failed to locate records prior to August 2001. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold all the information to which you seek access.

Question 1

Please advise if the PSNI is consulted before a prohibition is removed pursuant to Article 63 of The Firearms (NI) Order 2004 and whether such removal is subject to PSNI approval?

Answer

Applications for the Removal of Prohibition are dealt with by the Secretary of State. PSNI is asked by the Northern Ireland Office to provide factual information only. Such applications are not subject to PSNI approval nor does PSNI provide recommendations in respect of the decision to remove or not. The decision to remove or not is entirely a matter for the Secretary of State.

Question 2

If so, please advise how many times the PSNI has been consulted in each year since April 1998 concerning such matters and with what effect?

Answer

This information is only available from August 2001. Please see attached table, which provides the relevant statistics for applications on which PSNI has been asked to provide factual information. Statistics prior to August 2001 are not held.

DATE	RECEIVED	ALLOWED	REFUSED
Aug 2001 – Dec 2001	17	3	14
Jan 2002 - Dec 2002	31	3	28
Jan 2003 - Dec 2003	27	4	23
Jan 2004 - Dec 2004	18	4	14
Jan 2005 - Dec 2005	10	1	9
Jan 2006 - Dec 2006	7	2	5
Jan 2007 - Dec 2007	25	3	22
Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	28 (a)	7	15
Jan 2009 – Jul 2009	11 (b)	0	0

Note:

- (a) 6 outstanding
- (b) 11 outstanding

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 letter.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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