



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02795

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: FIREARM DISPOSAL / APPLICATION RENEWALS

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many firearms have been disposed of- to use the terminology of this email- in the years referred to, do you have a figure to provide?

Answer

The statistics provided only relate to applications for further grants (formerly renewals) of personal protection weapons in respect of former members of the security forces i.e. Ex Police and Ex UDR/RIR.

YEAR	*PPW APPLICATIONS REFUSED – EX SECURITY FORCE MEMBERS
2006	0
2007	0
2008	4
2009	172

* Relates to applications for the further grant of a firearm certificate which authorised possession of a personal protection weapon. The Firearms (NI) Order 2004 abolished the system of renewal of firearm certificates and replaced it with the requirement for the holder to apply for a grant upon expiry of the existing certificate. For ease of reference such applications are referred to as further grants.

Initial grants, revocations and voluntary cancellations have not been included.

Question 2

How many renewal applications have been refused in respect of how many weapons in the years since 2006?

Answer

An individual can only be authorised to possess one personal protection weapon so the number of weapons disposed is equivalent to the number of refusals – on the basis that each refusal will have resulted in the disposal of one personal protection weapon.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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