



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00995

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: FIREARMS LICENSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPONS

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.

Question 1

How many applications for a firearm have been made to the PSNI in the last 12 months?

Question 2

How many applications in the last 12 months have been approved?

Question 3

How many in that period have been refused?

Question 4

How many certificates for firearms are currently held in Northern Ireland?

Question 5

How many personal protection weapons are currently licensed in Northern Ireland?

Answer

The answers to your questions are supplied below. It should be noted that as decisions on applications are not always made during the sample time provided the approval/refusal statistics will not directly correlate to applications received in the same period.

Please find a brief description of the 3 categories that are supplied below.

Initial Grant - the grant of a FAC to a person applying for the first time.

Further Grant - the grant of a FAC to an existing FAC holder on expiry of their FAC (same process as above to approve grant).

Variation - the application to amend an existing FAC.

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.

Response to ATI Request F-2009-00995

Qu 1 – How many applications for a firearm have been made to the PSNI in the last 12 months?

Response –

Application Type	Number of Applications Received
Initial Grants	3386
Further Grants	6412
*Variations	6813

* Includes One On/One Off Shotgun Transactions via Firearms Dealers

Qu 2 – How many applications in the last 12 months have been approved?

Response –

Application Type	Number of Applications Approved
Initial Grants	3517
Further Grants	9141
*Variations	8477

* Includes One On/One Off Shotgun Transaction via Firearms Dealers

Qu 3 – How many in that period have been refused?

Response -

Application Type	Number of Applications Refused
Initial Grants	149
Further Grants	120
*Variations	164 (132 relate to Partial Refusals)

Note: As decisions on applications are not always made during the sample time provided the approval/refusal statistics will not directly correlate to applications received in the same period.

Qu 4 – How many certificates for firearms are currently held in Northern Ireland?

Response - There are currently 61,977 firearm certificates held in Northern Ireland.

Qu 5 – How many personal protection weapons are currently licensed in Northern Ireland?

Response – There are currently 3,334 personal protection weapons licensed in Northern Ireland.