



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02342

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: RETURNED PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPONS

Request and Answer:

Question

Please provide details of the number of Personal Protection Weapons returned to the PSNI for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009

- a) held by civilians,
- b) held by former members of the security forces in the three years mentioned below.

Answer

Firearms Licensing Branch have advised that the table below illustrates the number of personal Protection weapons returned to the PSNI for the years requested.

Year	Weapons returned to PSNI
2007	1
2008	1
2009	28

For your information these will have been returned by former members of the security forces as it is only these persons who will have firearms "on loan" from the PSNI. Civilians who have further grant applications refused have the option of applying for the NIO Purchase Scheme or having firearms sold through a licensed dealer.

The figures quoted **all** relate to former security force members who borrowed PPWs from PSNI and do not include civilians. A small number of civilian support staff may have had PPWs "on loan" from PSNI in the past but as a result of the PSNI PPW Policy Directive 09/06

http://www.psnipolice.uk/policy_directive_0906_personal_protection_weapon.pdf

These were returned to PSNI in 2006 and the holder was required to purchase a PPW privately.

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.