



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01369

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPONS HELD BY EX RUC AND PSNI OFFICERS

Request and Answer:

Previous request F-2009-00925 refers.

Question 1

Following on from Request F-2009-00925 I would like to request statistics relating to the number of ex-PSNI officers and serving PSNI officers who have been issued with Personal Protection Weapons.

Clarification – PPWs as defined by the Personal Protection Weapon Policy 09/06
http://www.psnipolice.uk/policy_directive_0906_personal_protection_weapon.pdf

Answer

953 Ex police officers currently have firearm certificates, which authorise possession of a personal protection weapon.

Question 2

How many personal protection weapons (PPWs) have been removed from individuals during the financial years of 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009? Figures relating to the following categories would be useful: Ex RUC Officers, Ex PSNI Officers and serving PSNI officers.

Answer

Please refer to the table provided:

*YEAR	Total Number of Revoked / Further Grant Refusals - PPWs	Revoked / Grant Refusals EX POLICE OFFICERS	Revoked / Grant Refusals EX UDR/RIR MEMBERS
2005	25	0	0
2006	12	0	0
2007	27	4	3
2008	100	3	5
2009	151	41	31

Note: In relation to the figures provided, a further grant refusal is where the person has applied for a further grant to continue to hold a PPW but this has been refused. Statistics for Firearms Branch are recorded in calendar years as opposed to financial years; therefore the figures provided are for calendar years. Statistics for 2004 are unavailable due to the implementation of new computer systems in February 2005.

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.