



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-00925

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPONS HELD BY EX RUC AND UDR MEMBERS

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I'm hoping that you could provide me with statistics and figures for the amount of Personal Protection weapons, held by former members of the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) and UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment). I would be grateful if you could forward statistics from 1995, and the most recent up to date figures.

#### Answer

There are currently 953 personal protection weapons held by former police members and 1184 by former RIR members.

Statistics for previous years from 1995 onwards are not available. This is because the computer system from which the information is retrieved is a 'live' database, which is continuously updated, so statistics can only be provided at the time of interrogation.

Holders of these personal protection weapons are recorded on the database as Ex Police (all) and are not separated into Ex RUC and Ex PSNI. The statistic can, therefore only be provided as a total for Ex Police. Similarly, the statistic for former UDR members will include both Ex UDR and Ex RIR personnel.

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](mailto: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.