



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00274

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: POLICE WEAPONS LOST/STOLEN SINCE 1997

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full. The information provided to you has been taken from records held by the Professional Standards Department of PSNI which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

Question

How many police weapons have been lost or stolen in each year since 1997?

Answer

Please refer to table 1 attached

The figures quoted in table one relate solely to police issue firearms reported lost or stolen. It does not include firearms that were reported missing for a short period of time.

It should be noted that that PSNI officers are routinely armed with each officer possessing an official issue personal firearm.

United Kingdom Police Services do not use generic systems to capture information. For this reason PSNI's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other Police Service.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Team 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 in accordance with our complaints procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of the Freedom of Information Team, Freedom of Information, and PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review you remain dissatisfied in anyway with the handling of the request you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner 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 all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously 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.

TABLE 1

PSNI WEAPONS LOST/STOLEN

| YEAR | NUMBER LOST | NUMBER STOLEN |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1997 | 5* | 0 |
| 1998 | 3 | 3 |
| 1999 | 0 | 1 |
| 2000 | 3 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 2 |
| 2005 | 0 | 1 |
| 2006 | 0 | 1 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 to 3.2.09 | 0 | 1 |

*** RECORDS INDICATE THAT IN 1997 FIVE FIREARMS WERE RECORDED AS LOST. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO DETAILS RECORDED TO INDICATE WHICH FIREARMS WERE ACTUALL STOLEN AND WHICH WERE LOST.**