



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00612

Keyword: Human Resources

Subject: Civilian Firearms Instructors

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

Question 1

I wish to know how many members of staff have been recruited as civilian firearms instructors in the last five years.

Answer

In the last five years the PSNI has recruited ten civilian firearms instructors.

Question 2

Also I should like to know how many of these staff were members of PSNI staff before recruitment as Firearms Instructors.

I would like to know what training courses were undertaken by these staff and how many times the staff members were permitted to undertake required training and whether all current civilian instructors have passed all the courses required to perform the role of firearms instructor.

In answering these questions please supply copies of all records written or otherwise which are pertinent to the question.

Answer

Seven of these instructors were members of PSNI staff before recruitment as Firearms Instructors. The Chief Firearms Instructor stated that as former police officers already possess the National Firearms Training Certificate they are therefore considered to be occupationally and operationally competent. These individuals required no further training and only needed to qualify in the discipline they were teaching to be deemed competent to deliver it.

Please note that Public Authorities are under no obligation under FOI to provide copies of documents. We are only required to provide the information those documents contain. It should be noted that records of individuals' training records would constitute personal data and would therefore likely to be exempted under Section 40 – Personal Information.

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.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.