



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-01427

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Persons Authorised To Carry Firearms For Providing Security

**Request and Answer:**

### Question 1

How many people (armed civilians) are currently authorised to carry firearms for the purpose of providing security for Sinn Fein politicians?

### Question 2

What training have they been required to undertake prior to authorisation?

### Question 3

Are they required to display an SIA licence while performing this role in public?

### Question 4

Who, or what legislation, regulates their activity and who do they answer to in the event of a firearm being discharged?

### Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

For your information there is no provision within the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 and associated NI Guidance on Firearms Controls to authorise a firearm for the protection of others.

Applications for firearms for **personal protection only** will be considered in accordance with PSNI Policy Directive PD 09/06.

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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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