



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-00128

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Shotgun Licenses Issued to Under 18's

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answer to your questions are as follows:

Question 1

Please disclose under the FOI Act:

The number of shotgun licenses issued by the police force to under 18's in each of the last 3 calendar years.

Question 2

Please provide a breakdown by year and age of the individual.

Question 3

For any licences issued to individuals under the age of 12, please state the age of the youngest individual given a licence.

I thought it might be helpful to provide an example of how you could display the information. You are welcome to use the below table if it is useful.

	2008	2009	2010
Under 12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			

Answer

Please see table below provided by our Firearms Licensing Branch for the number of firearm licenses issued to under 18's.

YEAR	16 YEARS OF AGE	17 YEARS OF AGE
2008	14	14
2009	18	14
2010	10	9

In Northern Ireland there is no distinction between shotguns and firearms in terms of the type of certificate issued. All types of firearms, including shotguns, are authorised by way of a firearm certificate. Shotgun certificates do not exist in Northern Ireland legislation.

Please note this information has only been provided for 16 and 17 year olds as this is the minimum age under the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 at which the Chief Constable may grant a firearm certificate.

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.