



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2011-03339

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Traffic Accidents involving Deer

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Do the PSNI record details of traffic accidents involving deer?

#### Question 2

If so, how many accidents have there been over the past 10 years and in what areas?

#### Question 3

How many people have been killed or injured as a result of a road traffic accident involving deer?

#### Question 4

How many deer related (non road traffic) incidents have been reported to PSNI over the past ten years? (annual breakdown please)

#### Question 5

How many deer poaching incidents have been reported to PSNI over the past five years? (to include a breakdown per DCU)

#### Question 6

How many cases of alleged deer poaching have been reported for prosecution over the past five years?

#### Question 7

How many of these have been successfully prosecuted?

#### Question 8

How many firearm certificates have been revoked as a result of alleged deer poaching?

### Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the “appropriate costs limit” under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18hours).

In relation to Question 2 of your request, to identify incidents involving deer would require a manual trawl of all incidents, on average 750 records per month, 9,000 per year. Over 10 years this would equate to 90,000 records. To examine each record and collate the data would take approximately 3,360 hours, greatly exceeding the 18 hour cost limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the ‘appropriate limit’. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit. It may be possible to retrieve **some** of the data in relation to Questions 2, 3, 4 & 5 within the cost limit, subject to any relevant exemptions. It may assist if the time frame was reduced from 10 years to a shorter period.

The PSNI can provide the number of “Fatal and Serious” Injury collisions involving deer.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

Although excess cost removes the PSNI’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided below the information which was retrieved prior to realising that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of the request.

#### **Answer to question 1**

The PSNI record details of traffic accidents involving animals, including deer, however this information is not recorded as a separate statistic.

#### **Answer to question 7**

The PSNI do not hold this information, the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) may be able to assist you further.

The PPS website can be accessed via the link provided below:

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=2>

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](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.