



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-00367

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Firearms Thefts

### **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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

#### **Question 1**

I would like to know how many incidents of firearm theft (all types of firearms) there have been over the past 5 years province wide.

#### **Answer**

There have been 247 incidents of firearms theft in Northern Ireland over the past five years.

#### **Question 2**

I would also like to know how many firearms have been stolen as a result of those thefts.

#### **Answer**

There were approximately 366 firearms stolen as a result of those thefts. Please note this figure has not been quality assured as there is no field on PSNI computer systems for recording the number of firearms stolen per theft. This figure is therefore reliant on additional information or "remarks" being included at the time of recording.

#### **Question 3**

I would like this figure broken down to show the number of incidents of firearm theft and firearms stolen, per DCU, over the same period. I would also like to know how many people have been charged with the theft of firearms over the past five years.

#### **Answer**

Please see the table provided below which shows a breakdown of firearm theft offences over the last five years broken down by Policing District and the number detected by means of charge/summons.

The numbers of firearms stolen per Policing District over the last five years are as follows;

<u>District</u>	<u>Firearms Stolen</u>
A	16
B	78
C	23
D	26
E	84
F	74
G	31
H	34

Please note, as above, that these figures are approximations only.

For more information on areas covered by Policing District please see the PSNI home page under "My Neighbourhood". This can be accessed using the following link;  
<http://www.psni.police.uk/>

#### **Question 4**

I would also like to know how many firearm certificates there are per DCU and also how many firearms there are per DCU.

#### **Answer**

Please see the table provided below which shows a breakdown of firearms certificate holders and firearms per Policing District.

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](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.

## Firearm theft<sup>1</sup> offences

**Please note:** These figures are based upon information taken from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change.

Policing District	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total Recorded offences	Of those recorded, the number since Detected	Of those detected, the number by means of Charge/Summons
A	3	2	1	3	2	11	1	1
B	1	2	2	3	0	8	1	1
C	10	9	3	7	3	32	4	4
D	6	2	9	8	9	34	4	3
E	7	10	21	23	15	76	12	7
F	7	8	7	4	8	34	4	4
G	3	4	4	6	7	24	4	4
H	6	5	7	3	7	28	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>

**Source: PSNI Statistics Branch**

<sup>1</sup> The figures above relate to the number of recorded burglary, robbery or theft offences where the stolen property has been identified as *Firearms –Guns/Handguns/Imitation/Pistols/Rifles/long Arms/Shot Gun*

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FIREARM CERTIFICATES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FIREARMS</b>
A	690	1807
B	786	1988
C	7761	20936
D	7427	17315
E	13122	28961
F	13102	29929
G	8039	18698
H	8891	21444