



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-02443

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Firearm Usage

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

This is a new freedom of information request on police firearm usage between January 1, 2010 and the present day. I am after all incidents where firearms were discharged. This includes negligent or accidental discharges, operational discharges and humane destructions. For each incident please state:

When and where the incident happened:

Question 2

How many bullets were discharged and by how many officers.

Question 3

The type of weapon used - e.g. shotgun, baton round etc.

Question 4

The reasons why the weapon was used (e.g. man with gun threatening to shoot public, negligent discharge etc).

Question 5

How many people were injured (if any) and the nature of the injuries suffered.

Question 6

Who was injured / targeted by the weapon e.g. male 29, female 58 etc.

Question 7

What damage was caused to property (if any) and what was the value of the damage caused.

Answer

The table below details the number of negligent/accidental discharges since 1st January 2010. Please note all PSNI officers are issued with personal protection weapons and the current strength of

PSNI is approximately 7,500 officers.

When and where incident occurred	How many rounds discharged	Type of Weapon	Reasons why weapon was used	How many people were injured	What damage was caused and value of the damage caused
August 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No information held
January 2010 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Station floor, value of damage not recorded
January 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Wall, value of damage unknown
February 2010 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No damage recorded
March 2010 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No damage recorded
June 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No information held
June 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Wall, value of damage not known
November 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Wall, value of damage not known
November 2010 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Wall, value of damage not known
December 2010 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Police vehicle, value of damage not recorded
March 2011 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Wall, value of damage not known
June 2011 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Police vehicle, value of damage not recorded
August 2011 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No damage recorded
June 2011 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Police vehicle, value of damage not recorded
October 2011 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No information held
January 2012 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	No information held
January 2012 Police Station	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	Police vehicle, value of damage not recorded
March 2012 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	furniture, value of damage not known
March 2012 Home address	1	Glock Pistol	Negligent discharge	None	kitchen, value of damage not known

In the same time-frame there were 6 humane destructions recorded, detailed in the table below:

Date	Location	Number of bullets discharged	Type of Weapon	Reason for use
Jan-10	Craigavon	1 cartridge	Remington Shotgun	Animal destroyed
Mar-10	Magherafelt	2 rounds	Glock 17	Animal destroyed
Mar-10	Newcastle	5 rounds	Glock 17	Animal destroyed
Mar-11	Lurgan	1 round & 1 cartridge	Sniper Rifle Remington Shotgun	Animal destroyed
Oct-11	Ballymoney	8 rounds	Heckler & Koch rifle	Animal destroyed
Oct-11	Craigavon	8 rounds	Glock 17	Animal destroyed

There were 4 occasions during the period 1st January 2010 and the 31st May 2012 in which a police firearm was discharged as a Use of Force incident.

When and where incident occurred	How many rounds discharged	Type of Weapon	Reasons why weapon was used	How many people were injured	Who was injured / targeted by the weapon	What damage was caused and value of the damage caused
Jan 2010 - Carrowdore	3 rounds	Glock 17	Disturbance/ missiles thrown at officers	None	4 x males	None
Nov 2010 - Craigavon	1 round	Glock 17	Armed assailant	None	37 yr old male	Wall & window damaged – value unknown
Feb 2011 - Belfast	1 round	Glock 17	Armed robbery	1 Fatality	29 yr old male	None
March 2011 - Belfast	1 round	Glock 17	Armed robbery	None	2 x 33 yr old males	None

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.