



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00005

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Firearms Certificates Foyle Area Command

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act about the number of firearms certificates granted in the Foyle Area Command in each of the calendar years 2010 and 2011.

I would like to know:

- the total number of firearms certificates issued in both years?
- how many of these certificates were new and how many were reissues?
- I would also like a breakdown of what type of firearms were involved.

Answer

The PSNI Firearms Branch has advised that the total number of firearm certificates issued in the Foyle Area Command in 2010 is 297 of which 38 were initial grants and 259 were further grants. In 2011 there were 357 certificates issued, 49 of which were initial grants and 308 were further grants.

The table below provides a breakdown of the types of firearms involved in the 2010 issues:

TYPE OF FIREARM	NUMBER HELD ON CERTIFICATE
Shotguns	400
Air Weapons	94
Rifles	124
Handguns	40
*Miscellaneous	27
Total	685

The table below provides a breakdown of the types of firearms involved in the 2011 issues:

TYPE OF FIREARM	NUMBER HELD ON CERTIFICATE
Shotguns	475
Air Weapons	131
Rifles	141
Handguns	41
*Miscellaneous	191
Total	979

* Miscellaneous – e.g. Sound moderators, Barrels, Humane Slaughter Instruments and Paintball Markers.

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.psnj.police.uk

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