



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2014-02479

**Keyword:** Complaints/Discipline

**Subject:** Negligent Discharges

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

The information I require is the number of negligent discharges which have been caused by members of the PSNI within the last five years from this date, and a breakdown of punishment/disciplinary action administered and details of how many did not receive any punishment if applicable

#### Answer

Thirty-two officers have caused negligent discharges since May 2009. All of these officers received local disciplinary action. Twenty-nine officers received a Superintendent's Written Warning and three officers received Advice and Guidance.

Whilst the PSNI takes seriously the discharge of police firearms, the number of cases must be put into context of the average strength of the PSNI in this time-frame, i.e. around 7500 officers and also the fact that the Service is routinely armed.

The information supplied has been compiled by Discipline Branch, Service Improvement Department, which has responsibility for internal discipline relating to police officers.

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.