



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00357

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Negligent Discharges since January 2011

Request and Answer:

Question

Details of incidents where police firearms have been accidentally fired (known as negligent discharges) since January 2011 up until the date this request was received. Please include:

The date and place of the incident.

Full details of the incident (e.g. how the accident happened, injuries resulting from the accident).

The type of firearm involved in the incident.

Details of any disciplinary action taken against officers responsible for a negligent discharge.

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.

The table below summarises the information sought:

Date	Place	Summary of incident	Type of Firearm	Disciplinary Sanction
March 2011	Home	Whilst practising trigger control prior to firearms training, firearm was negligently discharged into wall – no injuries	Personal protection weapon (PPW)- Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
June 2011	Prison Estate	Whilst clearing PPW, a round was discharged into footwell of police vehicle – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Advice and Guidance

August 2011	Police Station	Whilst loading firearm near police vehicle one round discharged into the boot of vehicle – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
August 2011	Police Station	Whilst at unloading bay in station grounds one round discharged negligently – no injuries	Heckler and Koch Rifle	Superintendent's Written Warning
January 2012	Police Station	Whilst unloading firearm in police vehicle one round discharged into the footwell – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
February 2012	Home	Whilst cleaning firearm, one round negligently discharged – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
March 2012	Home	Whilst unloading PPW, firearm was negligently discharged into bedroom furniture – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
March 2012	Home	Whilst unloading PPW, firearm was negligently discharged into kitchen furniture – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
May 2012	Police Station	Officer mishandled firearm trigger and one round discharged into floor – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
August 2012	Home	Whilst unloading PPW, firearm was negligently discharged into door – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
November 2012	Home	Officer mishandled firearm trigger when rushing out to work and one round was discharged – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
February 2013	Home	Mishandling of firearm causing one round to discharge into radiator on wall – no injuries	PPW – Glock	Advice and Guidance
May 2013	Home	Whilst carrying out dry practice manoeuvres one round was discharged into wall – no injuries	PPW – Glock	Advice and Guidance
September 2013	Police Station	Whilst unloading firearm in vehicle, one round discharged into footwell of vehicle – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
November 2013	Police Station	Whilst at firearms training, officer was unloading firearm and one round discharged into the unloading bay – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning

January 2014	Police Station	Whilst clearing the firearm in a safe area, one round was discharged – no injuries	PPW - Glock	Superintendent's Written Warning
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Whilst the PSNI takes seriously the discharge of police firearms, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall size of the PSNI i.e. around 7300 officers at date of request and 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.

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.psnipolice.uk

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