



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04386

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Offensive Weapons

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The number of 'offensive weapons' found and seized by police in F district in 2012-13 and 2013-14, broken down by district area, i.e. Dungannon, Cookstown etc and also by type of weapon.

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.

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence on pages 1 & 2 tables showing the number and types of weapons found or seized by police in F District during 2012/13 and 2013/14. This has been broken down further to show relevant policing areas.

Question 2

The number of 'offensive weapons' found and seized by police in G district in 2012/13 and 2013/14, broken down by district area, i.e. Magherafelt etc and also by type of weapon.

Answer

Please find attached at the end of this correspondence on pages 1 & 2 tables showing the number and types of weapons found or seized by police in G District during 2012/13 and 2013/14. This has been broken down further to show relevant policing areas.

Question 3

The number of people prosecuted for possession of an offensive weapon in F district and G district in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Answer

Please find below a table showing the number of convictions for 'Possessing Offensive Weapon' offences in F and G Districts during 2012, 2013 and to date in 2014.

F District		G District	
2012	60	2012	55
2013	30	2013	63
Up to 30/09/14	13	Up to 30/09/14	30

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.

Number of weapons seized or found and retained by police¹ in F and G districts by policing area in financial year 2012-2013.

		2012/13							
		F District ³				G District ³			
		Cookstown	Dungannon& South Tyrone	Fermanagh	Omagh	Foyle	Limavady	Magherafelt	Strabane
Firearms	Ammunition ²	8	2	25	30	18	5	5	1
	Gun/Handgun/Shotgun	1	1	3	4	12	1	3	0
	Imitation	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
	Other equipment	3	1	3	8	5	0	3	0
	Pistols	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Rifles/long arms	2	0	1	10	1	2	0	0
Other Weapons	Baseball Bat	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2
	Baton	0	1	3	1	1	2	0	1
	Crowbar	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
	Electronic stun gun	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Hammer	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	1
	Hatchet	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1
	Incapacitant spray	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
	Knife	0	2	8	9	29	3	0	4
	Machete	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	0
	Mallet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nunchukas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	6	0	4	2	1	0
	Sword	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0

NOTE: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

¹The data was extracted from the property information on PSNI's crime recording system where the description was 'Firearms' or 'Other Weapons' and the classification in occurrence was set as 'Seized' or 'Found – retained by police'.

²Seized and found ammunition was included in the selected records, however note that when more than one unit of the same type were seized during the same incident and recorded onto the same property record, only one instance was counted.

³Each record was allocated to the relevant Policing Area by using the Occurrence Address of the incident linked to each selected property item.

Number of weapons seized or found and retained by police¹ in F and G districts by policing area in financial year 2013-2014.

		2013/14							
		F District ³				G District ³			
		Cookstown	Dungannon & South Tyrone	Fermanagh	Omagh	Foyle	Limavady	Magherafelt	Strabane
Firearms	Ammunition ²	6	3	5	6	17	2	16	5
	Gun/Handgun/Shotgun	1	1	1	1	4	0	2	1
	Imitation	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1
	Other equipment	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	2
	Pistols	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
	Rifles/long arms	2	0	0	0	3	0	3	1
Other Weapons	Baseball Bat	1	2	1	3	2	0	0	0
	Baton	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
	Crowbar	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Electronic stun gun	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Hammer	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	3
	Hatchet	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Incapacitant spray	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
	Knife	1	9	15	6	48	10	3	6
	Machete	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
	Mallet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Nunchukas	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Other	1	3	0	2	11	1	5	0
Sword	1	0	0	1	9	1	0	0	

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