



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00798

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Shooting Incidents January 2014

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please provide full details of every shooting incident reported to the PSNI during the month of January, 2014. Please confirm the date, time and location of each reported incident. Also, please confirm if any incidents are omitted giving the reasons why.

Clarification: I was hoping for figures relating to all shootings including those connected to the security situation and those that are unrelated.

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 see Table 1 below which gives details of firearms related incidents which were reported to PSNI during the month of January 2014.

Information was extracted from our database in regard to the opening codes logged against various incidents when they are reported. In addition to the codes for Security Statistics and Police Use Of Force the following codes were used: Firearms Incident, Firearms Offence and Firearms. A manual trawl through each incident was then undertaken to check that it was an actual shooting incident. Non-shooting incidents were excluded. Shooting incidents involving farmers or other groups who gave prior notice to the PSNI of organised shoots have also been excluded.

It should also be noted that while it is possible to run searches using particular C&C codes, knowing what codes to use in any search of C&C is an issue. There are numerous codes which could turn out to be a shooting incident but has been opened with a code not normally associated with shooting incidents, so there are multiple permutations of opening and closing codes to search with. I searched with the codes mentioned above, however these may in all likelihood not incorporate all shooting incidents, for the reason mentioned in this paragraph and may therefore not be an overall total figure.

There are also occasions when incidents would be created as normal however these would then be passed to a virtual area for control by command taking the incident off the Controllers screen. When the incident has been completed this should then be passed back to the Controller prior to being closed but there are occasions when this does not happen and when searching for the incident it

cannot be found as it is still in the virtual area.

Please note that the figures provided are extracted from live databases and as human error cannot be ruled out in relation to these then the figures cannot be taken as 100% accurate.

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.

Area	Date	Time	Details
E District	02-Jan-14	22:48	Police on patrol report hearing 2 gunshots. Also reported by Neighbourhood Police and Security
B District	07-Jan-14	00:20	Caller reports pellet gun being fired
G District	08-Jan-14	23:44	Caller reports 2 bangs believed to be gunshots
A District	10-Jan-14	22:30	2 Shotgun blasts discharged into a parked vehicle
G District	11-Jan-14	12:38	Farmer reports shooting dog which had killed a sheep. Dog ran off
F District	15-Jan-14	19:16	Caller reports a man firing gun into the air at their home
H District	16-Jan-14	20:46	Man shot in chest
A District	16-Jan-14	21:55	Caller reports hearing bang outside house and on investigating saw damage to front door.
H District	17-Jan-14	15:41	Caller reports shooting dog that was chasing his sheep
H District	22-Jan-14	06:17	Caller reports hearing 20 shots from a small firearm
G District	23-Jan-14	09:45	Caller reports of being informed that shots had been fired through their house
H District	24-Jan-14	01:02	Shotgun discharged through a window in private premises
G District	27-Jan-14	18:04	Report of someone shooting foxes from inside a car and also that live rounds were fired into garden

The table below details every¹ shooting incident reported to the PSNI during the month of January 2014.

Note:

1. Any shooting incident relating to the security situation and include shots fired by terrorists, shots fired by the security forces, paramilitary style attacks involving shootings and shots heard (and later confirmed by other sources) are included. Firings of blank rounds are excluded. Other shooting incidents not relating to the security situation are included where the incident has been classified by the PSNI as a Firearms Incident. Included are shooting incidents involving for example a pellet gun. Incidents involving farmers or other individuals/groups giving prior notice to the PSNI of organised shoots (for example foxes) are excluded.

Figures are provisional and subject to change. The number of shooting incidents may change before the end of the 13/14 financial year.

Source: Statistics Branch, PSNI, Lisnasharragh.