



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00914

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Firearm Discharges by Police

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to make an FOI request to you relating to firearm usage. In particular I would like to ask the following questions which have previously been asked under FOI Ref F-2012-02443 (http://www.psni.police.uk/firearm_usage.pdf). If possible, please can the information be supplied in the same format and on the same basis? I hope that this will ease the collation of the information and help provide a clear idea of the information being sought.

This is a new freedom of information request on police firearm usage between 1 June 2012 and the present day. I am after all incidents where firearms were discharged. This includes negligent or accidental discharges, operational discharges and humane destructions. For each incident please state:

When and where the incident happened:

Question 2

How many bullets were discharged and by how many officers.

Question 3

The type of weapon used - e.g. shotgun, baton round etc.

Question 4

The reasons why the weapon was used (e.g. man with gun threatening to shoot public, negligent discharge etc).

Question 5

How many people were injured (if any) and the nature of the injuries suffered.

Question 6

Who was injured / targeted by the weapon e.g. male 29, female 58 etc.

Question 7

What damage was caused to property (if any) and what was the value of the damage caused.

In addition, if possible within the cost limit, can I also request:

Question 8

Estimated cost and length of training of initial mandatory firearms training provided to new officers?

Question 9

Estimated cost and length of training of ongoing mandatory firearms refresher training provided to officers?

Question 10

What is the approximate cost of providing a PSNI officer with a Glock 17 pistol? (I am happy to accept any of: cost of initial purchase; annualised cost (including or excluding servicing/depreciation); or any other estimate of cost held by PSNI.

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 details the number of negligent/accidental discharges from 1st June 2012 to 12th March 2015. 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 7000 officers at date of request and the fact that the Service is routinely armed.

Date	Location	Summary	Firearm
August 2012	Home	Whilst unloading PPW, firearm was negligently discharged into door – no injuries	PPW (personal protection weapon) - Glock
November 2012	Home	Officer mishandled firearm trigger when rushing out to work and one round was discharged – no injuries	PPW - Glock
February 2013	Home	Mishandling of firearm causing one round to discharge into radiator on wall – no injuries	PPW – Glock
May 2013	Home	Whilst carrying out dry practice manoeuvres one round was discharged into wall – no injuries	PPW – Glock
September 2013	Police Station	Whilst unloading firearm in vehicle, one round discharged into footwell of vehicle – no injuries	PPW - Glock
November 2013	Police Station	Whilst at firearms training, officer was unloading firearm and one round discharged into the unloading bay – no injuries	PPW - Glock
November 2013	Public Place	Officer accidentally discharged one round into civilian vehicle – no injuries	Semi-Automatic rifle
January 2014	Police Station	Whilst clearing the firearm in a safe area, one round was discharged – no injuries	PPW - Glock
January 2014	Police Station	Officer was unloading firearm and one round discharged into the unloading bay – no injuries	PPW - Glock
May 2014	Police Station	Whilst at firearms training, officer was unloading firearm and one round was discharged into private vehicle – no injuries	PPW Glock
August 2014	Police Station	Officer accidentally discharged firearm whilst in police armoury – no injuries	Semi-Automatic Rifle
October 2014	Home	Whilst unloading PPW, firearm was negligently discharged into utility kitchen door – no injuries	PPW - Glock

During the period 1st June 2012 to 12th March 2015 a police firearm was discharged on one occasion in a Use of Force incident, please find details in the table below.

Date	Location	Number of Rounds Discharged	Type of Weapon	Reason for Use	Injured	Damage
January 2013	Omagh	2	Glock 17	Armed Assailant	1 male	None

During the period 1st June 2012 to 12th March 2015 there were 6 humane destruction incidents recorded, please find details in the table below.

Date	Location	Number of Rounds Discharged	Type of Weapon	Reason for Use
April 2013	Coleraine	1 round	Remington Shotgun	Animal Destroyed
April 2013	Craigavon	3 rounds	Remington Shotgun	Animal Destroyed
July 2013	Magherafelt	4 rounds	Glock 17	Animals Destroyed
September 2013	Newtownards	3 rounds	Glock 17	Animal Destroyed
January 2014	North Belfast	4 rounds and 1 round	Remington Shotgun & Sniper Rifle	Animal Destroyed

Question 8

Estimated cost and length of training of initial mandatory firearms training provided to new officers?

Answer

Initial firearms' training is 15 days and the estimated individual cost per officer is £1,300.

Question 9

Estimated cost and length of training of ongoing mandatory firearms refresher training provided to officers?

Answer

Operational officers are required to attend refresher firearms training 2 days per annum and non operational officers are required to attend 1 day per annum. Refresher firearms training is estimated to cost £70 per day per officer.

Question 10

What is the approximate cost of providing a PSNI officer with a Glock 17 pistol? (I am happy to accept any of: cost of initial purchase; annualised cost (including or excluding servicing/depreciation); or any other estimate of cost held by PSNI.

Answer

The initial purchase price for a Glock 17 was £410. This does not include any ancillary equipment holsters, belts, ammunition etc. The firearms are serviced twice a year. Cost of servicing cannot be estimated as every firearm requires different parts / time taken to service.

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.