



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02781

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Missing PSNI Firearms and Ammunition

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can the PSNI say how many PSNI issue firearms are currently missing and/or unaccounted for?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

145 police issue firearms are currently missing and/or unaccounted for, of which 131 pre-date the formation of the PSNI in 2001.

Question 2

Can the PSNI say how many rounds of PSNI ammunition are currently missing and/or unaccounted for?

Answer

179 rounds of police issue ammunition are currently missing and/or unaccounted for.

Question 3

Can the PSNI say how many PSNI issue firearms have been stolen and/or gone missing since the transition of the Service from the RUC?

Answer

14 PSNI issue firearms have been stolen and/or gone missing since the formation of the PSNI.

Question 4

Can the PSNI say how many PSNI issue firearms have been lost and/or stolen but were later recovered?

Answer

3 PSNI issued firearms that were previously lost and/or stolen have been recovered.

Question 5

Can the PSNI say how many rounds of PSNI issue ammunition have been lost and/or stolen but

were later recovered?

Answer

No information held.

Question 6

Can the PSNI say how many officers have been disciplined due to PSNI issue firearms either going missing or being stolen?

Clarification Sought

Please advise the time frame you are interested in for re questions 6 & 7.

Clarification Received

Hi. Re questions 6 and 7, could I apply a time-frame of the last ten years?

Answer

In the last 10 years, five officers have been disciplined due to PSNI issue firearms either going missing or being stolen.

Question 7

Can the PSNI say how many officers have been disciplined due to PSNI issue ammunition either going missing or being stolen?

Answer

In the last 10 years, nine officers have been disciplined due to PSNI issue ammunition either going missing or being stolen.

Please note that the information retrieved for questions 6 & 7 was not recorded centrally and was obtained from the interrogation of several databases across a number of different categories and the manual examination of a number of files. Information extracted in this manner may not be as accurate as that extracted from a single central database.

Question 8

If possible, and if there are any firearms missing, can I be told the type of each weapon (and ammo) that is missing/stolen etc?

Answer

Type of Weapon	Number
H&K MP5 machine gun	1
M1 Carbine Rifle	1
Sterling machine gun	1
Webley revolver	16
Smith & Weston pistol	2
Walther 9mm pistol	74
Ruger revolver .357	41
H&K G33 Rifle	1
Glock 9mm pistol	8
Total	145

Type of Ammunition	Number
.38 special	6
5.56 round	3
9mm round	170
Total	179

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.