



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01055

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Firearm Certificates Issued to Those Aged 17 And Under

Request and Answer:

Question 1

For each year from 2009 to 2015 so far (or for fewer years if necessary to bring this request within the time and cost constraints of the FOI Act), and for each policing district, please disclose the following:

- The number of children aged 17 and under who were issued firearms certificates.
- For each child please disclose their age; gender; and the number and type of firearms for which the certificate(s) was issued (e.g. shotguns, types of rifles, etc).

Question 2

For each policing district, please also disclose the following:

- The overall number of children currently aged 17 and under who have been issued firearms certificates.
- For each child please disclose their age; gender; and the number and type of firearms for which the certificate(s) was issued (e.g. shotguns, types of rifles, etc).

Clarification Request: The record keeper has advised that the requested information regarding firearm certificates is not held by policing district as requested. Instead it is held by the smaller police station area. Can you confirm if you happy for the results to be provided by police station area rather than the requested district area?

Response: I am happy to receive the details by police station area.

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 an excel spreadsheet, containing the data you have requested. Please be aware that the spreadsheet attached contains two tabs, the first tab holding the information

requested in question one of your Freedom of Information request and the second tab holding the information in response to your second question.

Please Note: There are very specific criteria which must be met before a young person can be granted a firearm certificate by the PSNI. In order to grant a firearm certificate to a “young person” i.e. someone under the age of 18 years the following provisions of Articles 5 and 7 must be met.

Article 5 (1) & (2) – Grant of a firearm certificate states that the Chief Constable will grant a firearm certificate if he is satisfied that the applicant is:-

- A fit person to whom firearm can be entrusted
- Have a good reason for the possession of each firearm, and
- Can be permitted to possess firearms without danger to public safety or the peace.

Article 5 (3) – states that subject to Article 7, the Chief Constable shall not grant a firearm certificate to a person under the age of 18.

Article 7 - Grant of firearm certificate to young persons states:-

7(1) In this Article “young person” means a person under the age of 18 who has attained the age of 16.

7 (2) The Chief Constable may grant a firearm certificate to a young person for the acquisition and possession, but not purchase of a firearm and ammunition if—

(a) each firearm to which it relates is—

(i) an air gun to which paragraph (4) applies;

(ii) a shotgun; or

(iii) a .22 rimfire rifle that is to say of a calibre not exceeding 5.59 millimetres; and

(b) the Chief Constable attaches a condition under Article 6(1) that the firearm and any ammunition for it to which the certificate relates are for the purpose of—

(i) pest control; or

(ii) the protection of livestock; and on agricultural land occupied by the holder or on which he works and also resides.

(3) The Chief Constable may grant a firearm certificate to a young person if—

(a) each firearm to which it relates is—

(i) an air gun to which paragraph (4) applies; or

(ii) a shotgun; and

(b) the Chief Constable attaches a condition under Article 6(1) that the holder shall have the firearm and any ammunition for it to which the certificate relates in his possession only—

(i) for sporting purposes; and

(ii) during the period until he attains the age of 18 under the supervision of a person who has attained the age of 21 and has held a firearm certificate for a firearm of that type for at least three years.

(c) the young person has produced with his application to the Chief Constable the permission in writing of a parent or guardian to the acquisition and possession of the firearm and ammunition to which the application relates.

(4) This paragraph applies to an air gun which is capable of discharging a missile so that the missile has, on being discharged, a kinetic energy in excess of one joule.

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.

Firearm Certificates Granted To People Aged 17 and Under

Year	Age At Grant	Sex	Firearms Description	Station Area
2009	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Kilkeel
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Tandragee
2009	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Bessbrook
2009	16	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns	Rathfriland
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Tandragee
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Kells
2009	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Newcastle
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Omagh
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Strabane
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Cookstown
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Kilkeel
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dundonald
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ballymena
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Portadown
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
2009	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Broughshane
2009	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Donaghadee
2009	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .177 air rifle	Lisnaskea
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Omagh
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Downpatrick
2009	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Strabane
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Bessbrook
2009	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Lisburn
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownbutler
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Armagh
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Coalisland
2009	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Lisburn
2009	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Moira
2009	16	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Enniskillen
2009	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Antrim
2009	16	M	1 x .22 rifle	Beragh
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Crossgar
2010	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Irvinestown
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Lisnaskea
2010	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Portadown
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Toomebridge
2010	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Comber
2010	16	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns	Armagh
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle, 1 x .22 rifle	Omagh
2010	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Comber
2010	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Enniskillen

Total Granted in 2009 = 32

2010	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Newtownstewart
2010	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Portrush
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Bessbrook
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ballymoney
2010	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
2010	16	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Limavady
2010	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Lisnaskea
2010	17	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Antrim
2010	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Coleraine
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Belleek
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Rathfriland
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ballyclare
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Clogher
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Greyabbey
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dromore (Down)
2011	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Newtownards
2011	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Dunmurry
2011	16	M	5 x 12 gauge shotguns	Loughgall
2011	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Saintfield
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Greyabbey
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 28 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .17 rifle, 2 x .22 air rifles	Aughnacloy
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Enniskillen
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Beragh
2011	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Ballymena
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Comber
2011	17	F	1 x .22 rifle	Enniskillen
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Coalisland
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Templepatrick
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Tennent Street
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Ballynahinch
2011	16	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Bangor
2011	16	F	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownabbey
2011	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Kesh
2011	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Bessbrook
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Kilrea
2011	16	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns	Cookstown
2011	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Fintona
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 2 x 20 gauge shotguns	Coagh
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .177 air rifle	Castledearg
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Lisnaskea
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Belleek
2011	16	F	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownstewart
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Kilrea
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Enniskillen
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Lisnaskea

Total Granted in 2010 = 19

2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Randalstown
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Comber
2011	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Kilkeel
2011	16	M	6 x 12 gauge shotguns	Lurgan
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Castledearg
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Castledearg
2011	16	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Bellaghy
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Comber
2011	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Killyleagh
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Enniskillen
2011	16	M	1 x .410 shotgun, 2 x 20 gauge shotguns	Omagh
2011	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Coagh
2011	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Killyleagh
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ardmore
2012	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Newtownstewart
2012	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Strabane
2012	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Broughshane
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ballyclare
2012	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Coalisland
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownards
2012	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Coagh
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dunmurry
2012	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Whitehead
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Saintfield
2012	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .177 air rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Omagh
2012	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 magnum rifle	Lisnaskea
2012	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .410 shotgun	Lurgan
2012	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dungannon
2012	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Tandragee
2012	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Magherafelt
2012	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Comber
2012	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Kesh
2012	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Dromore (Down)
2012	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Saintfield
2012	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 magnum rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Castledearg
2013	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 .22 WMR rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Kesh
2013	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Coagh
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Banbridge
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Saintfield
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Warrenpoint
2013	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Waterside
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Warrenpoint
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Ballynahinch
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Carryduff
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .410 shotgun, 1 x .177 air rifle	Lisburn

Total Granted in 2011 = 49

Total Granted in 2012 = 22

2013	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Omagh
2013	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Clogher
2013	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Lisburn
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dromore (Down)
2013	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Willowfield
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Broughshane
2013	16	F	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Broughshane
2013	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Enniskillen
2013	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Coalisland
2013	17	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .410 shotgun, 2 x .22 air rifles	Coagh
2013	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Lisburn
2013	16	M	1 x .22 air rifle	Broughshane
2014	16	M	5 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Warrenpoint
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle, 1 x .17HMR rifle	Ardmore
2014	16	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns, 2 x 20 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Coagh
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Castlederg
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .410 shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Loughgall
2014	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Sion Mills
2014	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Greyabbey
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownhamilton
2014	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Dromore (Down)
2014	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 16 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Portaferry
2014	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Lisburn
2014	16	M	1 x .22 air rifle	Armagh
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Magherafelt
2014	16	M	1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Banbridge
2014	16	M	2 x 20 gauge shotguns, 1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Moirá
2014	17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .177 air rifle	Ballycastle
2014	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Maghera
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Lurgan
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
2014	17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Coagh
2014	16	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Crossgar
2014	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Portadown
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dungannon
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Beragh
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Hillsborough
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Killyleagh
2014	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Larne
2014	17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Banbridge
2014	16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Portglenone
2015	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Strabane
2015	16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh

Total Granted in 2013 = 22

Total Granted in 2014 = 29

Total Granted in 2015 to date = 2

Firearm Certificates Currently Issued To People Aged 17 And Under

Age At Grant	Sex	Firearms Description	Station Area
17	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 2 x 20 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Coagh
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Castlederg
16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Banbridge
16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Dungannon
17	M	1 x .22 air rifle	Broughshane
17	F	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Broughshane
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns	Coagh
17	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Warrenpoint
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Newtownhamilton
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Magherafelt
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Larne
16	M	2 x 12 gauge shotguns	Portglenone
16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Killyleagh
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Crossgar
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Maghera
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .410 shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Loughgall
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Moira
16	M	1 x .22 air rifle	Armagh
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 air rifle	Lurgan
16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Kesh
17	M	4 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 rifle	Warrenpoint
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 16 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Portaferry
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun, 1 x .17HMR rifle	Ardmore
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Maghera
17	M	3 x 12 gauge shotguns, 1 x .22 air rifle	Dromore (Down)
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Warrenpoint
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle	Sion Mills
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun	Hillsborough
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle	Beragh
17	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x 20 gauge shotgun	Magherafelt
16	M	1 x 12 gauge shotgun, 1 x .22 rifle, 1 x .22 air rifle, 1 x .17HMR rifle	Strabane

Total number of firearm certificates currently issued to aged 17 and under = 32