



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01125

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Firearms Certificates

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Could you please supply number of current Firearm Certificates within each of the 29 DCU areas?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the response is as follows.

Clarification sought

These records are recorded against station areas and to collate into DCUs would involve manual research of every record. There have been 569 revocations during the requested period and 36,363 variation transactions so to individually search each one and collate into DCUs would well exceed the 18 hour limit. The information is recorded in Station Areas and not DCUs as requested.

Clarification received

Yes, please supply in station areas.

Please see the table at the end of this correspondence entitled Firearm Certificates by Station Area.

Question 2

Could you please supply the following information for each of the last four years by each DCU area?

- i. Number of grant applications.
- ii. Number of re-grant applications.
- iii. Number of revocations.
- iv. Number of variation applications.
- v. Number of ballistic tests.

Answer

- i. Please see the table at the end of this correspondence entitled Grant Applications by DCU – 2011 – 2014.
- ii. Please see the table at the end of this correspondence entitled Re-grant Applications by DCU – 2011 – 2014.
- iii. Please see the table below detailing the number of revocations for 2011 – 2014.

YEAR	CERTIFICATES REVOKED
2011	139
2012	136
2013	126
2014	167

iv. Please see the table below detailing the number of variation applications for 2011 – 2014.

YEAR	VARIATIONS
2011	8008
2012	9764
2013	9006
2014	9585

v. Please see the table below detailing the number of ballistic tests of firearms held on Firearms Certificate in Northern Ireland for 2011 – 2014. **Please note:** this information is not recorded by DCU area and to provide by station area would require examination of over 4,000 individual files which would greatly exceed the cost limit under the FOI Act.

YEAR	BALLISTIC TESTS
2011	986
2012	994
2013	1177
2014	1324

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 By Station Area

STATION NAME	Current Firearm Certificates
Antrim Road	62
Greencastle	34
North Queen Street	4
Oldpark	52
Tennent Street	223
York Road	56
Grosvenor Road	35
New Barnsley	103
Woodbourne	96
Ballynafeigh	53
Donegall Pass	40
Lisburn Road	256
Mountpottinger	6
Musgrave Street	17
Strandtown	315
Willowfield	115
Bangor	846
Hollywood	202
Comber	958
Donaghadee	328
Greyabbey	630
Newtownards	658
Portaferry	280
Ballynahinch	500
Crossgar	238
Downpatrick	690
Killyleagh	273
Newcastle	827
Saintfield	359
Carryduff	327
Castlereagh	280
Dundonald	371
Dromara	5
Dunmurry	194
Hillsborough	1052
Lisburn	1121
Moira	920
Antrim	577
Crumlin	343
Randalstown	386
Templepatrick	404

Toomebridge	319
Carrickfergus	561
Whitehead	122
Ballyclare	700
Glengormley	311
Newtownabbey	270
Ardmore (Newry)	1008
Bessbrook	726
Crossmaglen	196
Kilkeel	1115
Newtownhamilton	212
Warrenpoint	413
Armagh	1056
Keady	669
Loughgall	516
Markethill	511
Tandragee	764
Banbridge	1181
Dromore (Down)	907
Rathfriland	806
Craigavon	282
Lurgan	1581
Portadown	1122
Coagh	1043
Cookstown	983
Pomeroy	264
Stewartstown	375
Aughnacloy	396
Clogher	714
Coalisland	614
Dungannon	1206
Fivemiletown	191
Moy	504
Belcoo	131
Belleek	162
Enniskillen	1159
Irvinestown	215
Kesh	654
Lisnaskea	1348
Newtownbutler	238
Beragh	582
Fintona	730
Omagh	1457
Claudy	377
Eglinton	197
Strand Road	334
Waterside	529
Castlederg	594

Donemanagh	334
Newtownstewart	218
Sion Mills	272
Strabane	607
Dungiven	486
Limavady	1020
Bellaghy	579
Maghera	685
Magherafelt	1764
Coleraine	757
Garvagh	379
Kilrea	346
Portrush	337
Ballymena	1278
Broughshane	708
Kells	484
Portglenone	693
Ballymoney	1162
Cloughmills	428
Glenarm	296
Larne	1076
Ballycastle	389
Bushmills	280
Cushendall	278
Total	59,437

Grant Applications by DCU - 2011-2014

DCU	YEAR			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
North Belfast	23	28	25	28
West Belfast	12	8	12	10
South Belfast	21	27	23	15
East Belfast	26	31	39	33
North Down	50	70	59	58
Ards	168	180	174	118
Down	116	190	182	132
Castlereagh	48	80	74	85
Lisburn	179	226	204	116
Antrim	95	124	110	83
Carrickfergus	38	36	42	29
Newtownabbey	68	90	87	58
Newry & Mourne	173	237	262	201
Armagh	185	250	202	141
Banbridge	152	202	166	179
Craigavon	144	179	156	126
Cookstown	145	126	166	93
Dungannon & South Tyrone	172	328	207	141
Fermanagh	182	278	206	176
Omagh	159	198	204	125
Foyle	49	102	104	76
Strabane	103	143	123	98
Limavady	85	98	116	75
Magherafelt	170	176	207	130
Coleraine	100	117	111	78
Ballymena	145	200	184	145
Ballymoney	102	89	123	74
Larne	51	87	77	72
Moyle	56	66	74	39

Re-grant Applications by DCU - 2011-2014

DCU	YEAR			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
North Belfast	107	66	49	38
West Belfast	51	39	26	23
South Belfast	74	50	49	38
East Belfast	95	89	58	32
North Down	250	192	108	81
Ards	642	486	331	270
Down	619	491	341	296
Castlereagh	214	179	118	71
Lisburn	700	592	394	326
Antrim	458	356	224	214
Carrickfergus	159	128	68	49
Newtownabbey	285	205	155	120
Newry & Mourne	775	631	420	341
Armagh	740	619	397	352
Banbridge	631	461	359	268
Craigavon	652	521	361	290
Cookstown	563	486	339	222
Dungannon & South Tyrone	776	627	448	313
Fermanagh	803	700	490	359
Omagh	510	464	365	255
Foyle	306	277	178	126
Strabane	441	366	203	184
Limavady	317	243	174	129
Magherafelt	652	501	331	288
Coleraine	402	311	211	180
Ballymena	668	587	337	305
Ballymoney	320	273	175	149
Larne	309	233	164	143
Moyle	193	139	107	90