



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02251

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Shotgun Licences

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The total number of children under the age of 10 (and the ages of those children) to have been granted a shotgun licence by your police force in each of the last five years.

Question 2

The total number of children under the age of 10 (and the ages of those children) to have been refused a shotgun licence by your police force in each of the last five years.

Question 3

Can you also provide us postcode details of those children (under 10) granted/refused a shotgun license by your police force?

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.

Questions 1 – 3 above do not apply to Northern Ireland as the legislation here is different from the rest of the United Kingdom. The Firearms (NI) Order 2004 does not provide for persons under the age of 16. 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 and who has attained the age of 16.”

Therefore a firearm certificate shall not be granted to anyone under the age of 16 in Northern Ireland.

Question 4

The total number of shot-gun licences issued to under 18s by your police force in each of the last five years.

Question 5

The total number of shot-gun licence applications refused for under 18s by your police force in each of the last five years.

Answer

In answer to Questions 4 and 5, please find a table below giving details for the number of Firearm Certificates granted and refused to those under the age of 18.

Please note that this only relates to 'Firearm Certificates', shotgun licences do not exist in Northern Ireland. The Firearms (NI) Order 2004 only has provision for the issue of a Firearm Certificate which covers all types of firearms e.g. shotguns, air rifles and rifles.

Year	Firearm Certificates Granted to those under 18	Applications Refused
2010	19	1
2011	49	5
2012	22	2
2013	22	0
2014	29	2

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.