



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00957

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Negligent Discharges

Request and Answer:

Question

Under FOIA 2000 I would like to request information held in relation to negligent discharge of firearms by officers or staff within the last 5 years. I do not require names, however if possible could the information be broken down by year and location (by location I mean, on duty in public, in training, on firing range etc.).

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

The negligent discharge of a firearm by a member of police staff is not a mandatory referral therefore no information is held.

The table below outlines the number of negligent discharges by officers in the last five years, by year and location;

Year	Location	Total
August to December 2011	Police premises Police vehicle in station Home address	3 incidents
2012	Home address x5 Police vehicle in station	6 incidents
2013	Home address x2 Firearms Training Police premises Police vehicle in street	5 incidents
2014	Home address Firearms training x4 Police armoury Police premises Police vehicle in station	8 incidents
2015	Home address x2 Police premises x2	4 incidents
2016	Police premises x3 Home address x2 Firearms Training	6 incidents

Whilst the PSNI takes the discharge of police firearms very seriously, the number of incidents should be placed in context with the strength of the PSNI, which is 6810 Regular Officers and 351 POPTs (Police Officer Part-Time) and the fact that the Service is routinely armed.

The information supplied has been compiled by Discipline Branch, Legacy and Justice Department.

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.