



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-00426

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Negligent Discharges

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act can I ask for the following information: Details of incidents where police firearms have been accidentally fired (known as negligent discharges) since January 2013 up until the date this request was received?

Please include:

- The date and place of the incident.
- Full details of the incident (e.g. how the accident happened, injuries resulting from the accident).
- The type of firearm involved in the incident.
- Details of any disciplinary action taken against officers responsible for a negligent discharge.

Answer

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

The table below outlines the number of negligent discharges by officers since January 2013.

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.

It should be noted that prior to 1st June 2016 the 2000 Conduct Regulations applied and after that date the 2016 Conduct Regulations. This accounts for the appearance of Management Action as an outcome for negligent discharges.

February 2013	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Advice and guidance
June 2013	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
August 2013	Negligent discharge - no further details	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
September 2013	Negligent discharge - no further details	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
November 2013	Negligent discharge at firearms training building, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
January 2014	Negligent discharge in police car park, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
January 2014	Negligent discharge of firearm in office, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
January 2014	Negligent discharge at unloading bay, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
May 2014	Negligent discharge in police car park, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
July 2014	Negligent discharge during vehicle stop, no reported injuries	G36 rifle	Advice and guidance
August 2014	Negligent discharge at unloading bay, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
August 2014	Negligent discharge in police premises, no reported injuries	G36 rifle	Superintendent's written warning
October 2014	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
May 2015	Negligent discharge in police premises, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
June 2015	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Advice and guidance
September 2015	Negligent discharge in police office, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
December 2015	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
January 2016	Negligent discharge in police car park, no reported injuries	G36 rifle	Superintendent's written warning
February 2016	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	N/K	Superintendent's written warning
March 2016	Negligent discharge in police premises, injury to leg of officer	Glock pistol	No further action
April 2016	Negligent discharge at unloading bay, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
April 2016	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Superintendent's written warning
May 2016	Negligent discharge in police premises, injury to finger and leg of officer	N/K	Advice and guidance
October 2016	Negligent discharge in police premises, no reported injuries	N/K	Management action
December 2016	Negligent discharge at home of member, no reported injuries	Glock pistol	Management action

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.