



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01626

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Equine Seizures

### Request and 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 does hold some information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

The information which I am requesting is listed below and should cover the period from January 2016 to date of receipt. How many equines were seized by the NI councils? Can you provide sub totals for each individual Council?

#### Answer

Searches were conducted and advice received from PSNI Wildlife and Animal Welfare office. It is advised that for Request 1 above and for requests 3, 9, 10, that PSNI do NOT hold information in relation to equine seizures by Northern Ireland District Councils. Questions 11-14 is also NOT held by PSNI but is held by Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

#### Request 2

How many equines were seized by the PSNI?

#### Answer

2016 = 73

2017 = 19

2018 = 35 (as of Sept 2018)

#### Request 3

What are the procedures for managing seized equines? Can you please provide me with a copy of Council procedures and PSNI procedures?

#### Answer

PSNI procedures are published on the PSNI internet site, under "Advice and Information" – "Animal Welfare and Wildlife". A link is provided as under:

[https://www.psni.police.uk/advice\\_information/animal-welfare/](https://www.psni.police.uk/advice_information/animal-welfare/)

**Request 4**

How many equines were reclaimed by their owner and, significantly, how is ownership verified?

**Answer**

2016 = 17

2017 = 12

2018 = 6

Ownership is verified by proof such as passport and chip number.

**Request 5**

How many equines were rehomed during the period requested and full details of rehoming procedures?

**Answer**

2016 = 31

2017 = 5

2018 = 25 (as of Sept 2018)

Rehoming procedures are in accordance with the Animals (NI) Order 1976 Art 10.

**Request 6**

How many were rehomed with a charity or riding stables?

**Answer**

PSNI would not be aware of where the horses are rehomed. The PSNI receives a signed waiver relinquishing the PSNI from further costs.

**Request 7**

Considering equines are classified as a pet how/where are seized equines advertised for rehoming?

**Request 8**

What is the procedure after an equine is seized - in line with their classification as a pet?

**Answer to Request 7&8**

Advertising for rehoming and procedures after seizure are in accordance with the Animals (NI) Order 1976 Art 10.

**Request 9**

How long, on average, are seized equines held by the council/PSNI before they are sold?

**Answer**

As per the Animals (NI) Order 1976 Art 10 (14 days).

**Request 10**

What checks /enforcement action is taken by Councils and the PSNI to ensure that chip/passport laws are adhered to?

**Answer**

PSNI comply with all laws relating to this, specifically the PSNI service provider adheres to the Horse Passport Regulations (NI) 2004.

**Request 11**

What /how often are checks carried out at the ports re the shipping /transportation of equines?

**Request 12**

Can you provide a copy of the procedures for managing this process?

**Request 13**

How many equines are registered in Northern Ireland as agricultural animals

**Request 14**

How many equines are registered in Northern Ireland as pets?

**Answer in relation to Requests 11-14**

The PSNI does NOT hold information in relation to Requests 11-14. The appropriate body for this information would be the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.