



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-02605

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Firearms Discharged by Police Officers

### 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 information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

### Request

Could I have a breakdown of how many times a PSNI officer has discharged their guns, since 2013. This would be sidearms, automatic weapons etc, not baton rounds. If it were also possible to have this breakdown which would show number of times weapons have been discharged and Policing area - Belfast, Strabane etc.

### Answer

Table 1 presents the number of occasions in which a PSNI officer discharged their firearm between January 2013 and October 2018, by policing area/district and by reason for use. As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts. For use of force incidents pre-April 2015 the old policing area is provided. For incidents from April 2015 the new policing district is provided.

Table 1: Number of occasions in which a PSNI officer discharged their firearm

Table 1a: Incidents between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2015

Police Area	Reason for use		Total
	Operational discharge	Humane destruction of animal	
Ards	0	1	1
Coleraine	0	1	1
Craigavon	0	1	1
Magherafelt	0	1	1
North Belfast	0	2	2
Omagh	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

Table 1b: Incidents between 1 April 2015 and 31 October 2018

Police District	Reason for use		Total
	Operational discharge	Humane destruction of animal	
Belfast City	0	2	2
Newry Mourne and Down	0	5	5
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0	4	4
Fermanagh and Omagh	1	0	1
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	2	2
Mid and East Antrim	1	0	1
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>

Notes:

- 1) An officer may have discharged more than one round during the same incident. If two officers discharged their firearm during the same incident this will get a count of 2 in the table above.
- 2) Figures exclude any discharge of AEPs or any negligent discharges
- 3) Figures from April 2018 are provisional and may not be validated.

Table 2: Number of occasions in which a PSNI officer discharged their firearm negligently

District Area	Number of occasions
Ards and North Down	2
Newry, Mourne and Down	3
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	6
Belfast City	3
Derry City and Strabane	3
Mid Ulster	2
Causeway Coast and Glens	3
Mid and East Antrim	1
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

PSNI Professional Standards Department provided the figures for officers negligently discharging their weapons. PSNI Central Statistics Unit provided the figures for officers discharging their weapon for operational use or the humane destruction of an animal.

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.