



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01130

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Imitation Firearms Involving Children

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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request

From 22 May 2017- to date, how many times have the armed police be sent to incidents involving children where firearms have been drawn including baton rounds and TAZERS and after investigation, children have been in found to be in possession of Imitation Firearms shop brought firearms. Definition for the purposes of this FOIA - child is defined as a person between 5 and 16yrs.

Short Text: I am seeking to find out how many times police are faced with Imitation Firearms in the hands of children.

Answer

Operational Support Department, PSNI can confirm that there has been 1 incident, within the specified time-frame, where a member of the public aged between 5 and 16 years old was in possession of an imitation firearm.

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.psnj.police.uk

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