



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01333

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Use of Air Rifle on Private Land

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 1

I have friends in England who regularly use FAC air rifles which are over 1 joules in their back garden.

I would like to know if I apply for a FAC and get a FAC Air Rifle can I use it on my own land?

Answer

Every case is dealt with on an individual basis therefore until we would receive an application we cannot give a definitive answer.

England and Northern Ireland are governed by different firearms legislation. The Firearms (NI) order 2004 governs the Northern Ireland legislation. Advice and guidance on procuring a firearm certificate in Northern Ireland is already in the public domain. The "Firearms (NI) Order 2004" and the associated guidance document, "Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearms Controls", can be obtained on the website www.nio.gov.uk by entering these two titles in the Search bar located on the Home page.

Relevant legislative Articles and associated guidance would be:

Article 5 – Grant of firearm certificate

Article 61 – Carrying or discharging a firearm in a public place

Appendix 3, paragraphs 7-11 in the Guidance document provide guidance on Quarry shooting and other shooting over land and would be particularly relevant to this request.

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.