



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2021-01166

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** (SPED) Successful Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings for 10 Years

**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 Number 1**

Could you provide me with the percentage breakdown on the number of successful SPED (Purchase of evacuated dwellings) in Northern Ireland in the last 10 years which were signed off by the Chief Constable

**Answer**

Please see the table below that provides the figures and percentages of the total amount of applicants who applied for SPED in the last 10 years and a breakdown of how many of those applications were successful.

The below data is the number of SPED applications from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Total Number of SPED Applications	Approved Numbers	Approved Percentages of Total Applications	Declined Numbers	Declined Percentages of Total Applications
340	137	40.29%	203	59.70%

**Request Number 2**

Percentage of members of the security forces and percentage of citizens intimidated from their homes, If possible include the numbers of successful and unsuccessful applications from both categories.

**Answer**

Please note that the answer provided below is based on the information held by PSNI Security Branch in relation to SPED applications. PSNI Security Branch does not hold any other information about intimidation to answer this question more fully.

We have defined the term **Security Forces** quite broadly, and it relates to the following – PSNI Officers, PSNI Staff & Relatives, Former PSNI or RUC Staff, DOJ Staff, current HMF Personnel and ex HMF Personnel and current Prison Officers and ex Prison Officers.

APPLICANTS	PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL APPLICATIONS	APPROVED NUMBERS	DECLINED NUMBERS	TOTALS
Security forces	30.87%	74	31	105
Members of Public	69.1%	63	172	235

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.