

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-02483

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Firearms Branch

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1) (a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

The current total number of Firearm Certificates held in Northern Ireland?

Answer

The current total of Firearm Certificates in Northern Ireland is 55,048.

Request 2

The current total number of Registered Firearms Dealers in Northern Ireland?

Answer

The current total of Registered Firearms Dealers in Northern Ireland is 78.

Request 3

The current total number of Registered Shooting Clubs in Northern Ireland?

Answer

Please see in the table below the total number of Registered Shooting Clubs in Northern Ireland;

Type of Registered Shooting Club	Total
Rifle and Pistol clubs	78
Shotgun Clay Clubs	12
Air Rifle Field Target Clubs	2

Request 4

The current total number of police staff employed in FEB broken down by employment grade and how many of these staff are employed as Firearms Enquiry Officers?

Answer

Please see below table outlining the total number of police staff employed by PSNI Firearms and Explosives Branch, broken down by employment grade, in addition to those employed as Firearms Enquiry Officers;

Employment Grade	Total
Grade 7	1
Deputy Principal	1
Staff Officer	7
Executive Officer 1	3
Executive Officer 2	30.79 (25.79 are employed as Firearms Enquiry Officers)
Administrative Officer	26.17

Request 5

The total number of “one off/one on” transactions carried out by Firearms Dealers and processed by FEB in the last five years?

Answer

The total number of “one on/one off” transactions is 19,132.

This figure is from 1st January 2017 to date.

Request 6

The current number of firearm related applications held by FEB, this number to include applications which have been assigned for processing and those which currently remain unassigned.

Answer

Please see table below outlining the current number of firearm related applications held by Firearms and Explosives Branch;

Applications	Total
Unallocated	2280 (55%)
Assigned	522 (13%)
In Progress	1342 (32%)
	Total = 4144

For your information, there are a total of 4144 firearm related applications held by Firearms and Explosives Branch:

- 32% (1342) are in progress
- 13% (522) are assigned and identifying further external queries.
- 55% (2280) remain unallocated pending the next available resource

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.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.