



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00377

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Firearms Licence Holders

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

How many firearm licence holders in force area currently?

Request 2

How many shotgun certificate holders in force area currently?

Answers 1 and 2

There are currently a total of 55,917 firearm certificate holders in Northern Ireland.

Note: In Northern Ireland we have one type of certificate which authorises possession of firearms and shotguns. We do not distinguish between firearm certificates and shotguns certificates. There is no provision within the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 for shotgun certificates.

Request 3

How many applications for a firearm or shotgun have been rejected?

Answer

The table below provides the information for a 5 year period from 2015 -2019.

	GRANTS	REGRANTS (FORMERLY RENEWALS)	REVOCATIONS	TOTAL
YEAR				
2015	128	43	164	335
2016	131	45	161	337
2017	81	32	129	242
2018	81	28	71	180
2019	115	39	133	287

Request 4

Scotland only for this question. How many air rifle licences been issued since introduction of legislation? How many applications been refused?

Answer

This is not applicable as your request refers to Scotland and not N Ireland.

Request 5

What is your force policy if a license holder dies and spouse and such having no authority to be in possession? Last thing they are thinking. Does your licence team have guidelines if so publish please?

Answer

There is no written policy or guidelines in relation to this matter. There is no provision within the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 for the issue of temporary permits to authorise temporary possession. The risk is managed in these circumstances and dealt with on a case by case basis.

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 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.