

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-00818

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Seizure of Legally Held Firearms

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Can you please provide me with information as to what the PSNI policy is in relation to the seizure of legally held firearms for persons involved in Domestic related incidents?

Request 2

In particular if all persons involved in a domestic incident are legal firearms holders – is it policy that all parties legally held firearms are seized pending completion of enquiries into the incident?

Request 3

What is the PSNI policy regarding the seizure of legally held firearms from someone who is alleged and reported to police for assault?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you request is publically available on the PSNI website and for convenience I have provided a link to the website below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/our-publications/policies-and-service-procedures/domestic-abuse-190418.pdf>

Please Note: The section you require is available on page 10 of the Domestic Abuse Policy.

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 email.

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.psnj.police.uk

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