

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01982

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Category Of Possession Of A Weapon

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

I would like to request information regarding the category 'Possession of a weapon'. In the user guide it states this includes firearms and sharp instruments, I would like to request if this could be broken down by type of weapon as I am writing on possession of a firearm and trends in this and how this links with political changes in Ireland.

Answer

Yes, this can be broken down as follows. In the monthly update, period ending 31 March 2020 on the PSNI website as under:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

In crime tables spreadsheet Table 11 – the classification for possession of weapons offences is further broken down into:

- 10A Possession of firearms with intent,
- 10B Possession of firearms offences and
- 81 Other firearms offences.

There are two additional sub classifications relating to weapons other than firearms. Figures cover each financial year for the time period 1998/99 to 2019/20. It should be noted that under the Home Office Counting Rules, possession of weapons offences are only recorded where the weapon has not been used during the commission of another crime.

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.