

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02205

Keyword: Complaints/Discipline

Subject: Police Officer Firearm Discharges

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 was looking to get the number of incidents where a PSNI officer discharged their weapon between January 1, 2015, and November 18, 2020 (day of FOI application) - either accidentally or purposefully.

I am looking the numbers to be broken down by year, in which policing district the discharge happened, how many rounds were fired in each incident, what weapon was used, why it was used and, if applicable, detail any injuries that were sustained.

Answer

Please see the attached attachments. The Excel spreadsheet covers weapons that have been negligently discharged and the PDF covers humane destructions and operational discharges, with regards to the spreadsheet that relates to "weapons that have been negligently discharged" the specific PSNI Districts have been provided in a separate table which is uncorrelated from the other data provided. This is done so as it is considered to be identifiable data.

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.