



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-02136

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Dog Related Firearm Discharges

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Can you please provide statistical information on the number of dog related firearm discharges by land owners in the area covered by PSNI Cookstown for the period 2012 to 2017?

Question 2

Also the number of subsequent investigations and firearm license reviews carried out as a result of the above dog related firearm discharges.

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.

The PSNI Central Statistics Branch has confirmed that they cannot identify specific instances in which a firearm has been discharged as there is no unique identifier in our data for this. It would also not be possible to state if any such incident involved a landowner as this information would not be recorded.

A search of the following incident closing codes: FRAM (Firearms Incident), FRRM (Firearms Offence) and ARMS (Firearms) returned 156 incidents in the Mid-Ulster District between 2012 and 2017. Further examination of the incident summary found no firearms discharges which were dog related and which fall within the boundaries of the old PSNI Cookstown area. Please note that this area is now categorised as the Mid-Ulster policing district according to the post 2015 Police Districts.

Note: This information is extracted from a live crime recording system and so may be subject to change. It is dependent on that information which is recorded in the incident summary and this may give enough detail to determine if the incident is relevant to this request for information.

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 Freedom of Information Team, 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 Freedom of Information, 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.