



Home Office

Crime, Policing and Fire Group
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Mr David Strenson
request-369085-89133a0b@whatdotheyknow.com

24 November 2016

Dear Mr Strenson

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 41735

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 November, in which you ask for:

- in 2016 to date how many Section 5 Firearms licences have been applied for? How many have been granted?
- what was the reason given for requesting a Section 5 licence on the successful applications?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose some of the information that you have requested. I can confirm that 643 applications for section 5 authority have been made and 459 of them have been granted between 1 January 2016 and 4 November 2016.

With regard to the reason for granting a section 5 authority for the successful applicants, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit under section 12 of the Act. We hold this information but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it. The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600. Even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **41735**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office
Third Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Lassman