



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Com Sec: 104168

2nd July 2010

Dear Mr Elliott,

To ask the Minister of Justice why it takes up to a year for the PSNI Firearms and Explosives Branch to issue a firearms licence; and to outline the process involved in the issue of a firearms licence.

7245/10

The above mentioned question was placed before the Minister of Justice, who has deemed that this is an operational matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Therefore the Chief Constable has been asked to respond directly.

An application for a firearms licence is submitted on a form 30/1, as per Article 4 of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004.

Article 5 of the same Order requires that the Chief Constable must be satisfied that:- (a) the person is fit to be entrusted with a firearm and (b) the person has good reason to possess or purchase a firearm. The legislation also requires that all applications for firearms are treated as first time applications. The applicant is required to provide evidence as to the reason for wishing to acquire a firearm. Automatic renewal of a firearms licence is no longer a feature of the legislation.

To assess fitness a range of enquiries are made both internally within PSNI, and externally with partner agencies. On occasion there may also be a need to consult with the applicant's own General Practitioner.

Each application is assessed and considered independently. Therefore processing times will vary depending on the nature of the application, and the enquiries that have to be made.

If you have any queries regarding this response, please address your correspondence to Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE.

Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE
Telephone: 028 90700006, Fax: 028 90700124



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I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely
John McCaughan

JOHN MCCAUGHAN
Superintendent
for Chief Constable

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