



**MEOIRYN SHEE-ELLAN VANNIN
ISLE OF MAN CONSTABULARY**



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Isle of Man Constabulary
Freedom of Information
Police Headquarters
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Our ref: 5692993

5 August 2026

Dear Mr Kermode

We write further to your request, received 9 July 2026, which states:

"Please can you confirm the following:

- 1. How many times during 2025 were any police firearms officers deployed on the IOM, including from the Tactical Firearms unit or Armed Response officers?*
 - 2. How many of such firearm deployments were there in each of the preceding four years i.e. 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*
 - 3. How many officers are currently trained to be deployed with firearms in the IOM?*
 - 4. What type of weapons are used by deployed firearms officers. Please give specific details of the type of guns etc.*
 - 5. What is the criteria for deploying firearm officers to specific incidents on the Island?*
- Thank you."*

Our response to your request is as follows: I have detailed below the information.

- 1. How many times during 2025 were any police firearms officers deployed on the IOM, including from the Tactical Firearms unit or Armed Response officers?*

45 (Apr 25 - Apr 26). The ARV is the TFU.

- 2. How many of such firearm deployments were there in each of the preceding four years i.e. 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*

21- 27

22- 27

23- 37

24- 30

- 3. How many officers are currently trained to be deployed with firearms in the IOM?*
- 4. What type of weapons are used by deployed firearms officers. Please give specific details of the type of guns etc.*

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the information is exempt under section 28(1) of the Act as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the defence, the capability, effectiveness or security of the



Enter the nature and severity of the prejudice

This information being in the public domain can negatively impact on the ability to maintain effective law and order, and allow hostile planning to take place by those with nefarious intent; as it would identify numbers of staff available, and given this some reasonable assumptions to be made around readily available capabilities which given the context of the Island and in the absence of other available authorities has a detrimental effect on National Security.

As section 28 is a qualified exemption, it is subject to a public interest test. The public interest must be something that is of serious concern and benefit to the public at large.

Factors in favour of disclosure

To satisfy the curiosity of the submitting individual

Factors in favour of withholding

Protects the public at large ensuring ability to keep them safe

Protects the officers by reducing the opportunity for harm

Maintains community confidence

In taking these factors into account the Isle of Man Constabulary determined that the factors in favour of maintaining the exemption outweigh the factors in favour of disclosing the information.

5. What is the criteria for deploying firearm officers to specific incidents on the Island?

Information held on open source [Deployment of authorised firearms officers \(AFOs\) / College of Policing](#),

The deployment of AFOs should only be authorised in the following circumstances:

- *Where the officer authorising the deployment has 'reason to suppose' that officers may have to protect themselves or others from a person who:*
 - *Is in possession of, or has immediate access to, a firearm or other potentially lethal weapon, or*
 - *Is otherwise so dangerous that the deployment of armed officers is considered to be appropriate, or*
- *As an operational contingency in a specific operation (based on the threat assessment), or*
- *For the destruction of animals which are dangerous or are suffering unnecessarily.*

Please quote the reference number 5692993 in any future communications.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your freedom of information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post.

An electronic version of our complaint form can be found by going to our website at <https://services.gov.im/freedom-of-information/Review> . If you would like a paper