



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03655
Keyword: Operational Policing
Subject: USAGE OF TASER IN LAST THREE YEARS

Request:

Question 1: I would like to request how many times a taser has been used by any member of the force in each of the last three years.

Question 2: For each usage I would like to request a brief description of the incident and why the taser was deployed.

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Answer 1:

There has been only one technical use of a Taser (not fired).

Answer 2:

PSNI Specialist Firearms Officers entered premises and detained a male person who was intoxicated and threatened violence with a knife. This male was subsequently arrested.

The use of Taser here falls under the following definition within our Service Policy: *"The visual effect of the laser sight being directed at a subject in order to induce compliance or as a deterrent effect"*.

It should be noted that in January 2008, the PSNI, as part of a pilot scheme, issued a limited number of Taser units for operational deployment by officers from the Specialist Operations Branch in pre-planned operations and to support officers in difficult and dangerous situations. This pilot scheme is still ongoing.

Information contained at http://www.psnl.police.uk/index/departments/equality_and_diversity_office/pg_proposals_for_the_introduction_of_taser.htm regarding use of Taser by the PSNI is relevant to this request.

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 email.

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 all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously 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.