



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00755

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: TASER TRAINING

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

What estimate has been made of the cost of training provided to police officers for using the new Taser stun guns in the (a) last and (b) next 12 months.

Answer

I have been advised by our Training, Educational Development department that the approximate costs of Initial Training over the past 12 months are as follows -

Four Specialist Firearms Officers (SFO) were trained as Taser lead trainers to implement the initial National Taser training package.

Approx **£2,000.00**

66 Specialist Firearms Officers (SFO) completed two 8 hour training sessions aimed specifically at the use of Taser during five courses @ £16.10 per hour = £262.40 per officer.

$66 \times £262.40 = \mathbf{£17,318.40}$

Each course required 4 instructors/role players.

$20 \times £262.40 = \mathbf{£5,248.00}$

58 Armed Response Unit (ARU) officers completed three 8 hour training sessions aimed specifically at the use of Taser during five courses after they had completed their initial ARU training course @ £16.10 per hour = £386.40 per officer.

$58 \times £386.40 = \mathbf{£22,411.20}$

Each course required 4 instructors/role players.

$20 \times £386.40 = \mathbf{£7,728.00}$

30 officers completed the Taser training within the ARU course - this included an initial two 8-hour days, which was supplemented throughout the 3 week Tactics course where Taser was a tactical option within all aspects of their training. This would equate to approximately an additional 8 hours resulting in a total of 24 hours per officer.

$30 \times £386.40 = \mathbf{£11,592.00}$

Course costs: - Each student discharged an average of 20 cartridges during the initial course. 88 (ARU) + 66 (SFO) = 154 officers trained requiring approx 3,080 cartridges @ approx £23 per cartridge.

$3,080 \times £23 = \mathbf{£70,840.00}$

Total over past 12 months = **£137,137.60**

The estimated costs for Refresher Training over the next 12 months are as follows -

Officers are required to reclassify a minimum of once per year however Taser will be a tactical option within all aspects of their tactical training throughout the year. This will equate to approx 8 hours per officer over the next 12 months. Approx 80 ARU and 66 SFO officers will require to refresh Taser training over the next 12 months, a total of 144 officers.

$144 \times £128.80 = \mathbf{£18,547.20}$

Each officer will discharge an average of 10 cartridges during the refresher training @ approx £23 per cartridge, which will equate to approx 1,440 cartridges.

$1,440 \times £23 = \mathbf{£33,120.00}$

Annual cost of instructors to run Taser refresher training, based on approx 12 courses over the year is approx £515 per course.

$12 \times £515 = \mathbf{£6,180.00}$

Total projected costs over the next 12 months = **£57,847.20**

Question 2

How many hours each police officer will have to spend next year for those training sessions?

Question 3

How often a police officer will be trained for using the new Taser stun guns (every 6 months, every year)?

Answer 2 and 3

The National Police Firearms Training Curriculum recommends that Officers reclassify a minimum of once per year, however Taser will be a tactical option within all aspects of their tactical training throughout the year. This will equate to approx 8 hours per officer over the next 12 months.

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.