



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2010-00195

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stinger Operations

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Please state how many times PSNI 'stingers' have been employed to stop vehicles in F-District in the last year? Please provide comparison for Northern Ireland, Dungannon, Omagh, Clogher Valley, Moy and Coalisland, and Cookstown. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8.

Answer

Please see the table below which has been supplied by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Traffic and Driver Training Unit. This table, and the tables below, show details of stinger deployments based on stinger deployment records which have been returned to the Driver and Traffic Training Unit by the deploying officers. Please note these figures have not been quality assured and are dependant on the deploying officer completing and returning records accurately. They may not be a true reflection of actual deployments.

| YEAR | F Dist | N.I. | D'gannon | Omagh | Clogher Vly | Moy & C'Island | Cookstown | Enniskillen |
|------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2009 | 4 | 49 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 2 | 81 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Question 2

Please state which sector in Northern Ireland had the highest number of 'stinger' deployments in the last year. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8.

Answer

'E' District historically has the highest number of deployments each year. Please see the table below.

| YEAR | E Dist | N.I. |
|------|--------|------|
| 2009 | 20 | 49 |
| 2008 | 41 | 87 |
| 2007 | 39 | 81 |

Question 3

Please state on how many occasions police cars have been accidentally 'stung' by their own stingers in F-District in the last year. Please provide comparison for Northern Ireland, Dungannon, Omagh, Clogher Valley, Moy and Coalisland, and Cookstown. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8.

Answer

Please see the table below.

| YEAR | F Dist | N.I. | D'gannon | Omagh | Clogher Vly | Moy & C'Island | Cookstown | Enniskillen |
|------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Question 4

Please state on how many occasions cars belonging to the public have been accidentally 'stung' by PSNI stingers in F-District in the last year. Please provide comparison for Northern Ireland, Dungannon, Omagh, Clogher Valley, Moy and Coalisland, and Cookstown. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8.

Answer

Please see the table below.

| YEAR | F Dist | N.I. | D'gannon | Omagh | Clogher Vly | Moy & C'Island | Cookstown | Enniskillen |
|------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Question 5

Please state on how many occasions that cars stopped by stingers in the last year in F-District have led to prosecutions. Please provide comparison for Northern Ireland, Dungannon, Omagh, Clogher Valley, Moy and Coalisland, and Cookstown. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8.

Answer

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information with regard to any prosecutions which may have resulted from cars stopped by stingers. A search of all documentation for each time a stinger was deployed would need to be carried out to ascertain if anyone was recommended for prosecution and this would take well in excess of the time permitted by legislation.

For your information, the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland may be best placed to provide a response with regard to any prosecutions. You can access their online Freedom of Information request form by using the following link

<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=0&page=eform&eid=1> or alternatively you can contact them in writing at the address below;

Public Prosecution Service
 Headquarters Sections and Belfast Region
 Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 3JR

Question 6

Please state on how many occasions injuries have been caused to people stopped by stinger operations in F-District in the last year. Please provide comparison for Northern Ireland, Dungannon, Omagh, Clogher Valley, Moy and Coalisland, and Cookstown. Please provide comparison for 2008/9 and 2007/8. If any, could you also provide a description of the extent of the injury?

Answer

Please see the table below.

| YEAR | F Dist | N.I. | D'gannon | Omagh | Clogher Vly | Moy & C'Island | Cookstown | Enniskillen |
|------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Searches were conducted in relation to the descriptions of the injuries, however, these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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 letter.

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 @ www.psni.police.uk

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