



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00673

**Keyword:** Operational Policing

**Subject:** Use of CS Spray

### 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 answer to your questions are as follows:

#### Question 1

How many of the 28 people aged 17 and under against whom CS spray was used during 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

#### Question 2

How many of the 279 people aged between 18 and 29 against whom CS spray was used during 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

#### Question 3

How many of the 87 people aged between 30 and 39 against whom CS spray was used during the 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

#### Question 4

How many of the 71 people aged between 40 and 49 against whom CS spray was used during the 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

#### Question 5

How many of the 12 people aged between 50 and 59 against whom CS spray was used during the 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

#### Question 6

How many of the 2 people aged between 60+ against whom CS spray was used during the 2008/09 were men and how many were women?

## Answer

### Gender and Age of Member of Public on whom CS was used\*

1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

<i>Approximate Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. 17 and under	27	1	28
2. 18 - 29	273	6	279
3. 30 - 39	81	6	87
4. 40 - 49	64	7	71
5. 50 - 59	10	2	12
6. 60+	2	0	2
<b>Total*</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>479</b>

\* Please be aware that an officer may spray CS against more than one member of public on one occasion. Also more than one officer can spray CS on the same member of the Public. Therefore this may not be a unique count of the number of persons on whom force was used.

### Question 7

How much did the PSNI spend on CS spray during 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09?

### Answer

2006/07 – nil

2007/08 - £28,352

2008/09 - £73,076

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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