



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02300

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Powers Used by Police Officers

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

I request figures for the number of times the following powers have been used by police officers:

- a) Stop and search
- b) Stop and question
- c) Arrest
- d) Entry
- e) Use of taser

in each of following nine electoral wards of Belfast:

- 1. Balmoral
- 2. Castle
- 3. Court
- 4. Laganbank
- 5. Lower Falls
- 6. Oldpark
- 7. Pottinger
- 8. Upper Falls
- 9. Victoria

since the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 was enacted, on 24th May 2007.

Answer

Please see the tables provided by the Central Statistic Unit below. Please note we are not able to provide the number of uses by the wards listed but can only provide these uses by Police Area.

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.

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since the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 was enacted, on 24th May 2007.

(a) The number of persons stopped and searched in Belfast by Area

1st July 2007 – 31st March 2011

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
Persons stopped and searched	8,249	8,553	14,237	7,588

(b) The number of persons stopped and questioned in Belfast by Area

1st July 2007 – 31st March 2011

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
Persons stopped and questioned	3,303	695	2,632	1,612

Note: As a person can be stopped and searched/ questioned under a combination of Terrorism Act and Justice and Security Act legislative powers that there will be some duplication of those persons who were both stopped and searched and stopped and questioned (e.g. those persons stopped using TACT S44 and JSA S21)

(c) The number of persons detained under PACE in Belfast Custody Suites by Area

24th May 2007 – 31st March 2011

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
Persons detained under PACE	3,717	5,719	10,618	4,907

(d) The number of uses of JSA Section 23 Power of Entry in Belfast by Area

1st October 2008¹ – 31st March 2011

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
Power of Entry	0	42	0	11

¹ Power of Entry statistics first collated from this date

(e) The number of uses of TASER in Belfast by Area

25th January 2008¹ – 31st March 2011

	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast
TASER Drawn	19	28	31	31
TASER Fired	7	2	3	2
Total	26	30	34	33

¹ TASERs introduced to PSNI on 25th January 2008.

Source: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh