



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02372

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Use of Plastic Bullets

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

A breakdown by date and area of the numbers of plastic bullets fired since 20th June.

Answer

There were 96 occasions when an Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) was fired during serious public disorder between the 20th June and 16th July 2011. There were a total of 350 AEPs fired in these 96 occasions. A breakdown by Police Area and number of rounds fired by date is presented below:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Rounds</i>
20 June 2011	East Belfast	57
21 June 2011	East Belfast	70
22 June 2011	East Belfast	3
01 July 2011	East Belfast	10
09 July 2011	Antrim	15
09 July 2011	Newtownabbey	8
10 July 2011	Carrickfergus	2
10 July 2011	Newtownabbey	10
11 July 2011	West Belfast	20
12 July 2011	North Belfast	107
12 July 2011	West Belfast	27
15 July 2011	Craigavon	17
16 July 2011	Craigavon	4

Total	350
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Question 2

Reasoning behind each of the discharges of plastic bullets.

Answer

On the 96 occasions in which an AEP was fired during serious public disorder between 20th June and 16th July 2011, the reason was given as follows:

Reason	Percentage
Protect Self	89.6%
Protect Other Officer	94.8%
Protect Public	70.8%
Protect Property	22.9%
Prevent an Offence	57.3%
Prevent Harm to Subject	2.1%
Effect Arrest	14.6%
Other	1.0%

Note: An Officer may report more than one reason for using this type of force

2011/12 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

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

Question 3

Details of other crowd control measures and less lethal technologies used on each of those occasions.

Answer

Other crowd control measures used include normal policing; protected officers; batons deployed as a group tactic; and the deployment and use of water cannon.

Question 4

Numbers of arrests associated with the related disturbances made by PSNI.

Answer

At 9th August 2011 there have been 84 arrests in connection with recent public disorder incidents at which the AEP system was used, this number is expected to continue to increase.

Question 5

Details of resulting charges associated with these arrests.

Answer

Subject to verification by the PPS, charges are for a range of offences under Common Law and the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, these are still subject to court proceedings.

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.psnipolice.uk

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