



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-03046

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Use of Tasers

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

Do you record the number of times an individual is "multiple-tasered" ((i.e.: subjected to more than one electrical pulse during an arrest)?

Answer

All uses of Taser are recorded and monitored.

Question 2

If so, how many?

Answer

Four occasions of multiple-taser use as described above, have been identified. All four were a result of repeat cycle of taser cartridge.

Question 3

How many police officers are there in your force?

Answer

There are currently 7,789 officers.

Question 4

How many of these are authorised to use a taser?

Answer

There are currently 148 taser trained officers, this relates to operational officers.

Question 5

Are there plans to increase the number of police officers authorised to use a taser in your force?

Answer

No current plans to increase numbers trained and authorised to use.

Question 6

Do you have a policy requiring officers to be trained fire officers in order to use a taser?

You clarified that your question refers to firearms officers.

Answer

The Taser will only be issued to authorised firearms officers who have successfully completed approved ACPO sponsored training in the use of the device. Operational Use Guidelines point 6.1 refers.

The Service Procedure 6/08 'Police Service of Northern Ireland Guidelines on the Operational Use of Taser.' can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/service_procedure_0608.pdf

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.