



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00259

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Deployments of Incapacitant Sprays, Taser and Impact Rounds

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

For provision of your constabulary/force/service total number of deployments of incapacitant sprays for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Answer

Please see the diagrams at the end of this correspondence detailing the use of CS Spray from June 2004 to September 2011.

Question 2

For provision of the type of incapacitant spray deployed in each of those years.

Answer

The Incapacitant Spray used is CSIS which is an irritant dispensed from a hand held aerosol canister in a liquid stream contains a 5% solution of CS in the solvent Methyl Isobutyl Ketone (MIBK).

Question 3

For provision of the numbers and types of any possible medical or health related complications of such deployment for each of those years.

Answer

None reported.

Question 4

Whether your constabulary/force/service has a policy requiring assessment by a healthcare professional of any individual subject to exposure to incapacitant sprays.

Answer

Public Order and Use of Force, Policy Directive – PD 07/07 refers and can be accessed via the PSNI

website using the link provided below:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/policy_directive_0707.pdf

Question 5

Whether your constabulary/force/service specifies the type of healthcare professional required to assess following such contact (e.g. doctor, or paramedic - or any of these).

Answer

PSNI specifies a Health Care Professional or a Forensic Medical Officer.

Question 6

For provision of your constabulary/force/service total number of deployments of Taser for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Answer

Recording of this data commenced in 2008 and therefore I am unable to provide data for 2007. Information in relation to Tasers for 2008 to 2011, can be accessed via the PSNI website by using the link provided below:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/web_version_uof_report_to_30th_september_2011.pdf

Question 7

For provision of the type of Taser deployed in each of those years (e.g. X26, M26, XRep).

Answer

PSNI use Taser model X26.

Question 8

For a breakdown of the types of Taser deployment - i.e. holster draw, red dot, drive-stun, or propelled.

Answer

In 2008 - 17 Drawn, aimed, red dot and 3 fired
In 2009 - 121 Drawn, aimed, red dot and 10 fired
In 2010 - 90 Drawn, aimed, red dot and 12 fired
In 2011 - (Jan-Sept) 88 Drawn, aimed, red dot and 8 fired

Question 9

For provision of the numbers and types of any possible medical or health related complications of such Taser deployment for each of those years.

Answer

None reported.

Question 10

Whether your constabulary/force/service has a policy requiring assessment by a healthcare professional of any individual subject to Taser deployment.

Answer

Service Procedure SP 06/08 refers and can be accessed via the PSNI website using the link provided below:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/service_procedure_0608.pdf

Question 11

Whether your constabulary/force/service specifies the type of healthcare professional required to assess following such contact (e.g. doctor, or any of these)

Answer

As per Service Procedure SP 06/08 all arrested persons who have been subjected to the discharge of a Taser must be examined by a Forensic Medical Officer (FMO) as soon as practicable.

Question 12

For provision of your constabulary / force/service total number of deployments of impact (baton) rounds for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Answer

Recording of this data commenced in 2008 and therefore I am unable to provide data for 2007. Information in relation to Impact Batons for 2008 to 2011, can be accessed via the PSNI website by using the link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/web_version_uof_report_to_30th_september_2011.pdf

Question 13

For a breakdown of the types of impact (baton) round used.

Answer

The AEP round used is the L60A1.

Question 14

For provision of the numbers and types of any medical or health related complications of such deployments for each of those years.

Answer

None reported.

Question 15

Whether your constabulary/ force/ service has a policy requiring assessment by a healthcare professional of any individual subject to an impact (baton) round.

Answer

Police Use of Firearms, Policy Directive – PD12/08 refers and can be accessed via the PSNI website by using the link provided below:

http://www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_1208.pdf

Question 16

Whether your constabulary/ force/ service specifies the type of healthcare professional required to assess following such contact (e.g. doctor, or paramedic, or nurse - or any of these).

Answer

As per Service Procedure SP12/08, a Health Care Professional or a Forensic Medical Officer is specified.

Clarification received: For the purposes of the FOI enquiry please take Questions 17-19 to refer to Armed Response Units only.

Question 17

For provision of your constabulary/force/service total number of deployments of armed response units for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Answer

In 2007 there was no armed response unit
In 2008, No figures recorded
In 2009, 539 deployments were recorded
In 2010, 786 deployments were recorded
In 2011, 1087 deployments were recorded
In 2012 (Jan), 216 deployments were recorded

Question 18

For a breakdown of the number of discharges of firearms in response to acute behavioural disorder.

Answer

None.

Question 19

For a provision of the number and types of any medical or health related complications of such deployment for each of those years.

Answer

None.

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.

Figure A3: Number of occasions CS Sprayed trend information - June 2004 to March 2007

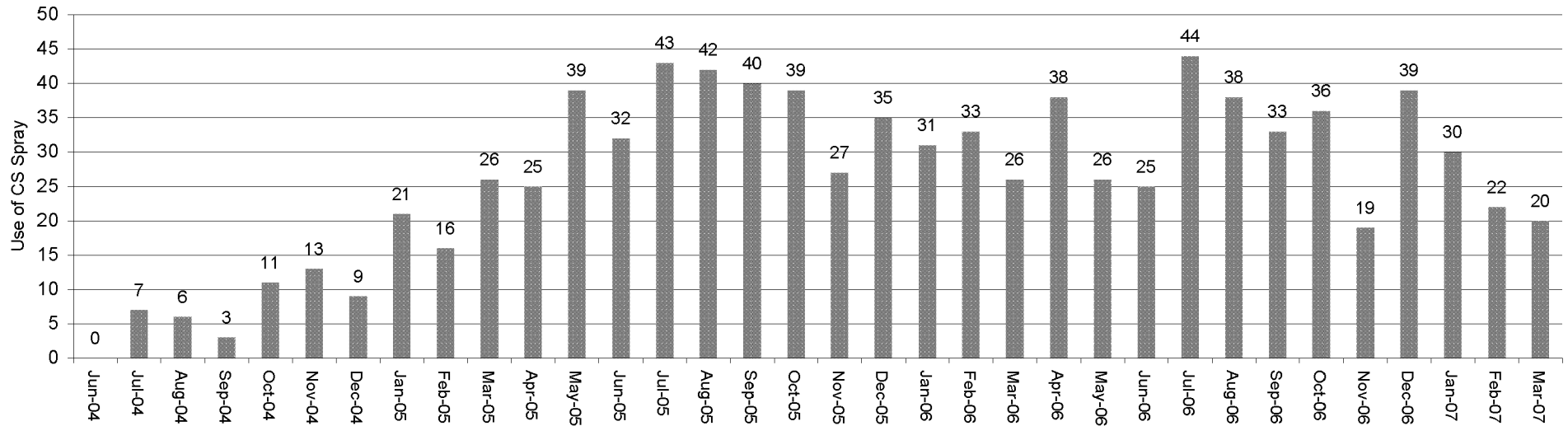


Figure A3 (contd): Number of occasions CS Sprayed trend information - April 2007 to September 2011

