



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-05499

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Taser Deployment on Children 16 and Under

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information on Taser deployment on children aged 16 and under. More specifically I am requesting the following: On how many occasions during the first ten months of 2013 (between January 1, 2013, and October 31, 2013) was a Taser deployed against a person aged 16 and under.

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.

During this period Taser was deployed 10 times.

Question 2

Please provide a breakdown of both the ages of the individuals as well as the method of Taser deployment (for example, but not limited to, drive-stun, firings, drawn, red-dotted etc.) I have provided an example of how this answer might be formatted. This is not exhaustive (e.g. if there was a 6-year-old involved in an incident with a Taser please include that information, or if there is another method of deployment please include that information in the table.)

Question 3

Please also provide a detailed summary for each incident as recorded in your log or the Taser deployment form, including where recorded (but not limited to) the reason for Taser deployment, the area of the body hit, the number of times the individual was hit and any adverse health effects from the Taser deployment.

Answer

In answer to questions 2 and 3 of your request, please see the table below detailing the method and reason for Taser deployment and the ages of the individuals.

Please note Taser was not discharged in any of the incidents.

Number	Reason for Deployment	Method of Taser Deployment	Age
1	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	14
2	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	15
3	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	15
4	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	16
5	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	16
6	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	16
7	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Aimed	16
8	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Drawn	15
9	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	15
10	Firearms incident subject had a knife police attended	Red dot	15

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.