



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-04331

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police Truncheons

Request and Answer:

I respectfully request answers to the following questions:-

Question 1

When did the PSNI replace wooden truncheons for the 2PX baton for response police officers?

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.

Wooden truncheons were replaced by 2PX batons in 2002.

Question 2

When did the PSNI replace the 2PX baton with the Monadanock Friction Lock baton for response police officers?

Answer

The 2PX baton was replaced by the Monadanock baton in a phased approach from 2008.

Question 3

How many 2PX batons did the PSNI buy and at what total cost?

Answer

No information held. These records have been destroyed in line with PSNI's retention and disposal schedule.

Question 4

How many complaints of excessive force in total were made against officers deploying the 2PX baton during its use by response officers?

Clarification Sought

Question 4 is going to put this request over cost. PSNI Discipline Branch receives approximately 3,000 initial complaint forms from the Police Ombudsman each year. These complaint forms are not categorised so each one would need to be examined to ascertain if the complaint related to baton

use. This would take around 50 hours to examine forms for one year putting the request over cost. PSNI may be able to provide information regarding the other 5 questions, would you be content to receive that?

Clarification Received

Please omit question 4 but continue with the rest of the questions. It is interesting to note, however, that this information is not available via the PSNI computer use of force reporting scheme. I thought it would have been.

Answer

The 2PX Baton was in use between 2002 and 2008. Under the PSNI's retention and disposal schedule the electronic records to which you refer were reviewed, and in keeping with the schedule only records dating back to 2011 have been retained.

Question 5

How long did the 2PX baton remain in front line use by PSNI Response officers?

Answer

The 2PX Baton was in use between 2002 and 2008.

Question 6

What were the relevant qualifications & experience of the officer who recommended the procurement of the 2PX baton and the person who authorised the procurement of the 2PX baton?

Answer

No Information held. These records have been destroyed in line with PSNI's retention and disposal schedule.

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.