



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-02587

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Plastic Baton Rounds

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I am looking to assess the extent to which the holding and use of Plastic Baton Rounds (PBR's) has changed from the Royal Ulster Constabulary to the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Therefore I was hoping to ascertain the figures for:

The Number of plastic baton rounds held by (in possession of) the RUC per year in the years 1994, 95, 96 and 97.

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.

The information showing the number of plastic baton rounds received in the PSNI store for the years requested is provided in the table below. Please note, the computerisation of these records only began from 1995 and so there is no information held for the year 1994. Please also note that in 1997 the type of baton round used was changed from the 'L5A5' to the 'L5A6' and due to this the year 1997 has been separated in order give the figures for each round type.

Year	Baton Round Type	Number Received in Stores
1994	No information	No information held
1995	L5A5	25,200
1996	L5A5	60,375
1997	L5A5	1,125
1997	L5A6	12,000

Question 2

The Number of plastic baton round fired (actually discharged) by the RUC per year in the years 1994, 95, 96, and 97.

Answer

The information showing the number of plastic baton rounds fired (actually discharged) by the RUC for the years 1994, 95, 96, and 97 is shown in the table below.

Year	Baton Rounds Discharged
1994	214
1995	273
1996	6,949
1997	2,527

Question 3

The Number of plastic baton rounds held by (in possession of) the PSNI per year in the years 2012, 13 and 2014.

Answer

The information showing the number of plastic baton rounds received in the PSNI store for the years requested is provided in the table below, please note that in 2005 the AEP (Attenuating Energy Projectile) was introduced and that this is not referred to as a Baton Round.

Note: AEPs have a limited shelf life compared to the previously used baton rounds and due to this factor the PSNI are required to receive significant number of AEPs to maintain the officer training of operational AEP operators. It should also be noted that there has been a recent rationalisation process undertaken and the number received annually from now on will be 15,000.

Year	Projectile Type	Number Received in Stores
2012	AEP	37,152
2013	AEP	43,032
2014	AEP	42,336

Question 4

The Number of plastic baton rounds fired (actually discharged) by the PSNI per year in the years 2012, 13 and 2014.

Answer

The requested information showing the number of AEP discharged by the PSNI for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 is shown in the table below.

Year	Projectile Rounds Discharged
2012	350
2013	20
2014	36

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.