



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03399

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Stinger Deployments 2012 - 2015

Request and Answer:

Question

My request is regarding the use of so-called 'stingers' - the devices used by police to stop cars, usually when suspected criminals are being pursued. They are sometimes branded as 'stop stick', etc.

For the calendar years 2012, 2013, 2014 and up to and including September 2015, can you please provide details of:

- The number of times stingers were deployed and the date in each case
- The reason the stinger was deployed
- The number of times officers were injured during use of a stinger, and the date
- The extent of his / her injuries
- The gender / rank of the officer in each case

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Included below are two tables displaying the requested data, table one displays the date of each stinger deployment and the reason for the deployment and table two shows the requested details of those PSNI officers injured during the deployment of a stinger device.

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.

Table 1: Stinger Deployment 2012 - 2015

| Date | Reason for Deployment |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 21/03/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/03/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 02/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 07/04/2012 | Dangerous Driving |
| 07/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 15/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/04/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 05/05/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 07/05/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 13/05/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 15/05/2012 | Resisting Arrest |
| 21/05/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 01/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 09/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 18/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 22/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 23/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 23/06/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 20/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/07/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 03/08/2012 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 28/08/2012 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 19/09/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 27/09/2012 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 01/10/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 02/10/2012 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 19/10/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/10/2012 | Criminal Involvement |
| 25/10/2012 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 09/11/2012 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 10/11/2012 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 10/11/2012 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 13/11/2012 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 18/12/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 28/12/2012 | Failed to stop at VCP |

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| 04/01/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 12/01/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 13/01/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 13/01/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 14/01/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 16/01/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 11/02/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 01/03/2013 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 01/03/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 01/03/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 20/03/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 25/03/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 06/04/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 06/04/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 24/04/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 27/04/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 07/05/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 11/05/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 12/05/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 26/05/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 03/06/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 10/06/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 19/06/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 08/07/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 14/07/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 14/07/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 17/07/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 19/07/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 04/08/2013 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 11/08/2013 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 13/08/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 15/09/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/09/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/09/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 18/10/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 26/10/2013 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 17/11/2013 | Criminal Involvement |
| 17/11/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/11/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 06/12/2013 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 07/01/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 07/01/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 14/01/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 15/01/2014 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 28/01/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |

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| 15/02/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 20/02/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 04/03/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 09/03/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 09/03/2014 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 30/03/2014 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 11/04/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 17/04/2014 | Criminal Involvement |
| 20/04/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/04/2014 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 21/04/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 21/04/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/04/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 28/05/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 08/06/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 18/06/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 20/06/2014 | Criminal Involvement |
| 28/06/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 19/07/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 01/09/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 09/09/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 12/09/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 13/09/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 26/09/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 28/09/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 28/09/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 01/11/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 03/11/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 04/11/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 04/11/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 08/11/2014 | Criminal Involvement |
| 23/11/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 11/12/2014 | Accidental |
| 19/12/2014 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 28/12/2014 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 06/01/2015 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 16/01/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 19/01/2015 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 01/02/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 04/02/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 07/02/2015 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 10/02/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 13/02/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 13/02/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/02/2015 | Stolen Vehicle |

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| 01/03/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 01/04/2015 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 04/04/2015 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 08/04/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 13/04/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 14/04/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/04/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 30/04/2015 | Stolen Vehicle |
| 29/05/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 14/06/2015 | Failed to stop drink/drugs |
| 15/06/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 28/06/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 01/07/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/07/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 25/07/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 30/07/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 16/08/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 18/08/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 04/09/2015 | Criminal Involvement |
| 04/09/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |
| 19/09/2015 | Failed to stop at VCP |

Table 2: Injuries Sustained During Stinger Deployments 2012 - 2015

| Year | Date | Rank | Gender | Injury |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| 2012 | 19/08/12 | Constable | Male | whiplash to neck and back |
| | 13/06/12 | Constable | Male | sprain right knee |
| | 15/05/12 | Sergeant | Male | swelling right knee |
| 2013 | NIL | | | |
| 2014 | 20/01/14 | Constable | Male | whiplash to back, pain left wrist |
| | 17/04/14 | Sergeant | Male | whiplash to neck/right shoulder |
| | 12/07/14 | Sergeant | Male | strain/back and abdomen |
| | 21/11/14 | Constable | Male | sprain/swelling right wrist |
| | 14/10/14 | Constable | Male | whiplash to neck |
| | 14/10/14 | Constable | Male | whiplash to neck, pain to head, strain to back |
| | 09/10/14 | Constable | Male | whiplash to neck, pain left shoulder, pain left arm, pain left hand, pain left leg, |
| 2015 to 30/10/15 | 23/03/15 | Constable | Male | abrasion/swelling to left knee |
| | 08/04/15 | Constable | Male | sprain left knee, sprain right knee |
| | 13/04/15 | Constable | Male | whiplash to neck, sprain left shoulder, sprain left knee, sprain to back |
| | 02/10/15 | Constable | Male | Near Miss |