



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-01261

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Taser Deployments Against Mentally Ill Persons

Request and Answer:

Question

Between 8 April 2014 and 8 April 2015, the total number of incidents of Taser firing or stunning (of any type, e.g. drive-stun, angle stun) against a mentally ill person (e.g. either known/suspected to have mental health issues, or detained under any section of the Mental Health Act, e.g. 135 or 136.)

Please provide a breakdown of each incident providing the following: - age and sex of the person fired or stunned with Taser, - nature of Taser deployment (e.g. firing, drive-stun, angle-stun etc.) - location of firing or stunning (please state if private residence, public place, general hospital, mental health ward, other medical clinic, during police transportation to police station, during police transportation to hospital, during police transportation to mental health ward, inside police station [not within cell], or, inside police cell).

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 and it can be found in the table below.

Age	Male / Female	Location	Nature Of Taser Deployment
16	Male	Dwelling	Firing
19	Male	Dwelling	Firing
20	Male	Garden/Driveway	Firing
21	Male	Dwelling	Firing
22	Male	Dwelling	Firing
28	Male	Outside Dwelling	Firing
30	Male	Roadway	Firing
36	Male	Dwelling	Firing
43	Male	Dwelling	Firing
43	Female	Hospital	Firing
43	Male	Roadway	Firing
51	Male	Street	Firing
58	Male	Dwelling	Firing

Please Note: The PSNI use of force reports asks officers to give their ‘**perception**’ as to the behavioural factors involved in any incident where a Taser has been deployed in any way and gives officers the following choices: mental health, alcohol, drugs or other and it is common for multiple behavioural issues to be selected as being an influencing factor in any such incident.

The information in the table above is only based on the ‘**perception**’ of the police officer. PSNI officers are not required to determine if an individual is suffering from a mental health disorder, this should only be done by a qualified Mental Health professional.

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.