



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00672

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Taser Use On Children Aged 16 and Under

Request and Answer:

Question 1 a)

On how many occasions during the calendar year 2014 was a Taser deployed against a person aged 16 and under. 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.)

This is not exhaustive (eg. 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.)

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 the calendar year 2014, there were 6 Taser incidents, the requested breakdown is shown in the table below:

Age	Method of Deployment
16	Drawn
16	Aimed
16	Red Dotted
16	Red Dotted
16	Red Dotted
16	Red Dotted

Note: The term 'Red Dotted' means that a red dot appears on the subject indicating where the TASER would hit if fired.

Question 1 b)

Please also provide a detailed summary for each incident where the Taser was FIRED or used to STUN as recorded in your log or the Taser deployment form, including where recorded (but not

limited to) the reason for Taser firing or stunning, the area of the body hit, the number of times the individual was hit, and any adverse health effects from the Taser deployment. I do not require summaries for other types of deployment (eg. drawn, red dot)

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act.

Answer

As shown above, there were no incidents involving subjects aged 16 and under where a Taser was either 'Fired' or 'Discharged' in any way in the calendar year 2014.

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.