



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05955

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Use of Tasers 2012-2014

Request and Answer:

Question 1

The number of times police have used Tasers in the calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014 (from 1st January 2014 to 31st November 2014).

Please break this down by calendar year, so it is possible to see how many times police have used Tasers in each calendar year separately.

Please also break this down by each type of use as defined by College of Policing and the Home Office in this document, section 5: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2014/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2014>

Question 2

The number of times the top five officers have each used Tasers in the calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014 (from 1st January 2014 to 31st November 2014).

Please note that I am only interested in the number of times these five officers have used tasers, not any personal details such as name or rank.

Please break this down by calendar year, so it is possible to see how many times police have used tasers in each calendar year separately.

Please also break this down by each type of use as defined by College of Policing and the Home Office in this document, section 5: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2014/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-january-to-june-2014>

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is

currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

I have been advised by the Department concerned that to answer Question 2 it would mean a manual search of each form relating to Taser Use over the calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014. There are 543 forms which at 10 minutes each to extract the data and collate would equate to 90.5 hours which is over the 18 hour FOI Legislation set by the Secretary of State.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit and a response to question 1 could be provided within this.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

For your convenience I have provided a link below which provides a response to question one:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates-statistics_on_police_use_of_force-2.htm

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.