



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00058

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police Use of Taser

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I want to find out a bit more about your force's use of tasers. Can you provide me with information? How many times have your officers drawn a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Question 2

How many times have your officers aimed a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Question 3

How many times have your officers arced a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Question 4

How many times have your officers red dotted a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown financial years).

Question 5

How many times have your officers drive stunned a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Question 6

How many times have your officers fired a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

* If for any of the financial years you don't have the breakdown as requested or my overall FOI exceeds cost limits then please simply indicate how many discharges and non-discharges there were for each year.

Question 7

How many injuries have resulted from the use of taser guns in the last 10 financial years? Please provide date of each incident and describe the injury.

Question 8

How many deaths have resulted from the use of taser guns in the last 10 years? Please provide date of each death, the age of the person who died and the location.

Clarification Sought

The record holder has advised that questions 7 & 8 put the request over cost. Questions 1 – 6 may however be available subject to any FOI exemptions which may apply. Please let me know if you would be content to receive what may be available within cost.

Clarification Received

Yep that's fine.

Question 1

I want to find out a bit more about your force's use of tasers. Can you provide me with information? How many times have your officers drawn a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years). If for any of the financial years you don't have the breakdown as requested or my overall FOI exceeds cost limits then please simply indicate how many discharges and non-discharges there were for each year.

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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Taser has only been used by the PSNI since 2008. Please find table below showing the number of times taser has been drawn in each of the past 8 financial years.

1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2009	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016
5	27	12	13	35	31	11	35

Question 2

How many times have your officers aimed a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Answer

Please find table below showing the number of times taser has been aimed in each of the past 8 financial years.

1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2009	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016
4	9	7	9	6	14	7	6

Question 3

How many times have your officers arced a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Answer

This is not a tactic taught by PSNI and there have been no incidents of arcing within the past 8 years.

Question 4

How many times have your officers red dotted a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown financial years).

Answer

Please find table below showing the number of times taser has been used to red dot in each of the past 8 financial years.

1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2009	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016
18	108	73	104	130	179	86	136

Question 5

How many times have your officers drive stunned a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Answer

Please find table below showing the number of times taser has been used to drive stun in each of the past 8 financial years.

1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2009	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016
0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

Question 6

How many times have your officers fired a taser gun in the last 10 years? (Please provide yearly breakdown for financial years).

Please find table below showing the number of times taser has been fired in each of the past 8 financial years.

1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2009	1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2010	1 st April 2010 – 31 st March 2011	1 st April 2011 – 31 st March 2012	1 st April 2012 – 31 st March 2013	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016
3	9	14	9	11	16	21	14

Question 7 – Withdrawn**Question 8**

How many deaths have resulted from the use of taser guns in the last 10 years? Please provide date of each death, the age of the person who died and the location.

Answer

No deaths have resulted from the use of taser in the last 8 years.

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.