



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01453

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Conductive Energy Device

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

On how many occasions during the respective calendar years 2015, 2016 and to date in 2017 has a TASER been deployed against a person aged under 18.

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.

Table 1 below displays the number of incidents in which a PSNI officer used their Conductive Energy Device (CED)⁽¹⁾ against a person under 18 years of age. Please be aware that the same person could be counted more than once in Table 1 if they have had a CED used against them by more than one officer.

Table 1

Calendar Year	CED Drawn	CED Red Dotted	CED Fired	Total
2015	1	6	1	8
2016	4	14	0	18
2017 ⁽²⁾	0	0	1	1
Total	5	20	2	27

(1) Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs) were formerly referred to as TASER stun guns by the PSNI. 'TASER' is a trademark of TASER International Inc.

(2) Data for 2017 is up to 20th June 2017. Data is provisional and subject to change.

Question 2

Please provide a breakdown of both the ages of the individuals and the district command area in which the incident occurred.

Answer

Table 2 below displays a breakdown of Table 1 by age of the individual on whom the Conductive Energy Device was used and Table 3 displays the requested breakdown of Table 1 by policing

district. .

Table 2

Calendar Year/Age ⁽¹⁾	CED Drawn	CED Red Dotted	CED Fired	Total
2015	1	6	1	8
14	1	2	0	3
16	0	1	1	2
17	0	3	0	3
2016	4	14	0	18
14	1	0	0	1
15	1	1	0	2
16	0	5	0	5
17	2	8	0	10
2017⁽²⁾	0	0	1	1
17	0	0	1	1
Total	5	20	2	27

(1) Age may be officer perceived age.

(2) Data for 2017 is up to 20th June 2017. Data is provisional and subject to change

Table 3

Calendar Year/Policing District	CED Drawn	CED Red Dotted	CED Fired	Total
2015	1	6	1	8
Antrim ⁽¹⁾	0	1	0	1
Ballymena ⁽¹⁾	0	1	0	1
Belfast City	0	1	0	1
Carrickfergus ⁽¹⁾	0	1	0	1
Derry City and Strabane	0	1	0	1
Newtownabbey ⁽¹⁾	0	0	1	1
West Belfast ⁽¹⁾	1	1	0	2
2016	4	14	0	18
Belfast City	1	8	0	9
Derry City and Strabane	0	1	0	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh City	0	2	0	2
Mid and East Antrim	2	1	0	3
Newry, Mourne and Down	0	2	0	2
North Down and Ards	1	0	0	1
2017⁽²⁾	0	0	1	1
North Down and Ards	0	0	1	1
Total	5	20	2	27

(1) As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. The Policing Districts of Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey and West Belfast are based on the PSNI's old district structure and the remaining Policing Districts in Table 3 are based on the PSNI's new 11 Policing Districts.

(2) Data for 2017 is up to 20th June 2017. Data is provisional and subject to change.

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.