



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-02716

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Conductive Energy Devices

Request and 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 and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. For the years 2016, 2017 and the period 1st January 2018 to 1st November 2018, could you please tell me how many times did your police officers discharge a Taser in drive stun mode at a person?

Answer

For your information, the word Taser® is a proprietary term and a registered trademark belonging to the company Taser International Inc. For the purposes of this request, PSNI's response is based on the term Conductive Energy Devices.

Operational Support Department (OSD) has confirmed there were no drive stun uses.

Request 2

How many times did your police officers discharge a Taser in angled drive stun mode at a person?

Answer

Operational Support Department (OSD) has confirmed there were no angled drive stun uses.

Request 3

How many times did your police officers fire a Taser at a person (i.e. so that the barbs are discharged at the subject)?

Answer

This information is published on the PSNI website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/statistics-on-police-use-of-force/>

Request 4

If it is within the time/cost limit set out by the FOI Act, for questions 1, 2 and 3, could you tell me the age range (i.e. youngest to oldest) of the people who police officers fired Tasers at?

Answer

This information is published on the PSNI website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/statistics-on-police-use-of-force/>

Request 5

If you are unable to answer question 4 because it is not within the time/cost limit, please answer the other questions listed only. How many times did your police officers fire a Taser or discharge a Taser in drive stun mode or angled drive stun mode at an animal?

Answer

Operational Support Department (OSD) has confirmed there were no drive stun or angle drive stuns on animals.

Request 6

For question 5, could you list the type of animals that police officers fired/discharged Tasers at?

Answer

Please refer to the response provided for Request 5.

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.psnipolice.uk

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