



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01839

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Use of Tasers in Mental Health Hospitals

Request and Answer:

Request 1

I am writing to you to request the following: How many times have police used Tasers in mental health hospitals, wards, and clinics (both private and NHS run) since April 2017 to the most recent date you have for recording this (please specify what month and year this is).

Request 2

Please break this information down by month and provide information on the age of the person who had the Taser used on them and the context for why the Taser was drawn (e.g. concern about violence / patient trying to abscond etc.)

Request 3

Please say whether the Taser was discharged and whether it was "Drive stun", "Angled drive stun" or "Fired". Or in instances of non-discharges whether it was "Drawn", "Aimed", "Arced" and "Red-dot".

Request 4

When a Taser was fired please can you also say whether an injury was obtained by the person who was tasered and, if so, what it was and what treatment was offered.

Answer

PSNI Operation Support Department has stated that since 2017 there has been no incidents involving Tasers used in metal health hospitals, wards or clinics (both private and NHS run).

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.