



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-00914

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police Use of Force Incidents

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1) (a) of the Act we 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.

Request 1

My request relates to the use of police force incidents over the last five years.

Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021, how many use of force incidents occurred, broken down by ethnicity of subject (as perceived by the reporting officer) e.g. White, Black, Asian, Other, etc?

Request 2

As well as these overall use of force figures, please provide:

- a) How many incidents involved a less lethal weapon (CED e.g. Taser or AEP) being drawn but not discharged, broken down by perceived ethnicity of the subject?
- b) How many incidents involved a less lethal weapon (CED e.g. Taser or AEP) being discharged, broken down by perceived ethnicity of the subject?

Request 3

Can you please also provide the same data requested in questions 1, 2a and 2b, for the following time periods:

- Between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020
- Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019
- Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018
- Between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017

Please provide the information in an excel format where possible.

Answer to Request 1-3

Please see attached the separate Excel spreadsheet detailing the information requested.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.