

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01247

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Use of Tasers on Children Aged 17 & Under

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

Please provide data on the number of times officers in your force have used Tasers on children aged 17 years old and younger.

Request 2

Please can this be broken down by year (i) 2017, (ii) 2018, (iii) 2019, and (iv) 2020, to date

Request 3

Please can this data be further broken down by: (a) age; (b) ethnicity; (c) category of highest use (i.e. Drawn, Aimed, Arched, Red Dotted, Drive Stun, Angled Drive Stun and Fired); (d) reason for use; and (e) location of use (i.e. in police custody, in public, etc.?)

Answer

Any use of force by PSNI, including Taser is rigorously recorded by means of an electronic use of force recording system. The data is collected and analysed for scrutiny and accountability mechanisms. PSNI has a number of key safeguards and oversight mechanisms in place, both internally and externally. This includes oversight of any use of force on children and young people.

The information requested has been provided in the attached spreadsheet.

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.