



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-01533

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Use Of CED

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

For each calendar year 2018, 2019 and 2020 and the period 1st January 2021 to 29th June 2021, could you please tell me:

How many times your police officers fired/discharged Tasers at people (i.e. in drive stun mode, angled drive stun mode or fired so that the barbs are discharged at the subject)?

Answer

Please note that ‘Taser®’ is a proprietary term and a registered trademark belonging to the company Taser International Inc. Therefore for the purposes of this request, PSNI will use the term Conductive Energy Devices (CED) in our responses.

Table 1 displays the number of times that PSNI officers fired⁽¹⁾ their CED at members of the public between 1 January 2018 and 29 June 2021⁽²⁾.

Table 1

Calendar Year			
2018	2019	2020	2021 ⁽³⁾
21	28	26	7

(1) Includes stun drive and angled stun drive.

(2) The figures may not be a unique count of the number of persons on whom force was used, as force may be used by more than one officer on the same member of the public.

(3) Refers to the period 1 January 2021 to 29 June 2021. Data for this period is provisional and subject to change.

Request 2

The age range (i.e. youngest to oldest) of the people who police officers fired/discharged Tasers at?

Answer

Table 2 displays the age range⁽¹⁾ of those people whom PSNI officers fired⁽²⁾ their CED at between 1 January 2018 and 29 June 2021.

Table 2

	Calendar Year			
	2018	2019	2020	2021 ⁽³⁾
Youngest person	20	18	18	15
Oldest person	59	57	62	50

(1) Age may be officer perceived.

(2) Includes stun drive and angled stun drive.

(3) Refers to the period 1 January 2021 to 29 June 2021. Data for this period is provisional and subject to change.

Request 3

For your answer to question 2, could you provide brief details of the incidents involving the youngest and oldest person tasered?

Answer

Table 3 displays the incident summary for those incidents involving the youngest and oldest person each year.

Table 3

Year / Age	Incident Summary
2018	
20 years old	CED used as a less lethal option in order to resolve an incident involving a subject armed with a knife.
59 years old	Subject was threatening self-harm and was armed with a large knife. There was evidence of previous self-harm and following unsuccessful lengthy negotiations to try to get the subject to drop the knife CED was deployed to protect life and limb
2019	
18 years old	Subject armed with a knife was under Police containment. The subject moved towards Police with the knife in their hand in a manner deemed by Police to be threatening. CED was discharged against the subject in order to remove the threat against officers and the subject was controlled and handcuffed
57 years old	CED was used against the subject during a serious firearms incident.
2020	
18 years old	Subject armed with machete threatening members of the public and police. A foot stop was conducted by Police and CED deployed against armed subject.
62 years old	CED was used against the subject during a serious firearms incident.
2021	
15 years old	Subject was holding a family member with a knife to their throat. Police commenced negotiations however the subject would not comply with instructions. Following a struggle between the subject and family member, Police forced entry to the premises and deployed CED against the subject to prevent serious injury/loss of life.
50 years old	CED fired to incapacitate subject during a serious firearms incident.

Request 4

How many times your police officers fired/discharged Tasers at an animal (i.e. in drive stun mode, angled drive stun mode or fired so that the barbs are discharged)?

Request 5

The type of animals (including breed if the animal is a dog) that police officers fired/discharged Tasers at?

Answer To Request 4 and 5

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 not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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.

