



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-02092

Keyword: Organisational Information Police/Staff Training

Subject: Public Order Training

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

Can you please advise what date the PSNI changed from using Wooden Blocks to Baton Rounds as Missiles in Public Order Training?

Answer

The PSNI changed from using wooden blocks to baton rounds as missiles in public order training in November 2013.

Request 2

In the 5 years immediately preceding the change to Baton Rounds please confirm the following:

Request 2a

The number of Officers involved in Training.

Answer

Level 1 trained between 2008 to 2013 = 1993

Level 2 trained between 2008 to 2013 = 5443

Level 1 training is annually and Level 2 training is every 3 years as per national guidelines.

Request 2b

The number of Injuries occurring as a result of the Wooden Blocks during Public Order Training.

Answer

The total number was 52.

Note

A search was carried out of all electronic accident forms (e23/10s) submitted for the period 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2013. The parameters used are as follows, 'Nature Of Duty' selected as 'Training – Public Order', 'Training – Other' and 'Other'. There results were then analysed against

key words of Baton, Rounds, Missile, AEP, and Wood & Block. Once applied, the final total is 52 incidents reported, and all reported as 'Injury'.

Request 3

In the 5 years after the change to Baton Rounds please confirm the following:

Request 3a

Number of Officers involved in Training.

Answer

Level 1 trained between 2013 – 2018 = 1663

Level 2 trained between 2013 – 2018 = 5950

Level 1 training is annually and Level 2 training is every 3 years as per national guidelines.

Request 3b

Number of Officers injured by Baton Rounds during Public Order Training.

Answer

The total number was 32.

Note

A search was carried out of all electronic accident forms (e23/10s) submitted for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2018. Again the parameters used as follows, 'Nature of Duty' selected as 'Training – Other' and 'Other'. These results were then analysed against key words of Baton, Rounds, Missile, & AEP. Once applied, the final total is 34 incidents reported. 32 reported as 'Injury' and 2 reported as a 'Near Miss'.

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.psni.police.uk

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

confidentiality.