



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-03035

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Taser Use On Animals

Request and Answer:

Question 1

a) On how many occasions in 2013 (up until today's date 2 July 2013) was a Taser deployed against an animal. Please provide the species of animal as well as how the Taser was deployed (i.e. drive-stun mode, firings and incidents where the Taser was drawn and aimed.)

b) Please also provide a summary for each incident.

Question 2

The same for 2012

Answers 1-2

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

I have been informed that during the time period requested for questions 1 and 2 Tasers were not used or drawn and aimed on any animal.

Question 3

The same for 2011.

Answer

On 5th October 2011 two Taser cartridges were fired by police at a cow in the presence of a Vet. The cow was injured and distressed at the side of the motorway and had charged the police on a number of occasions causing injury to one officer and damaging a vehicle. The cow was consequently destroyed by police firearms.

Question 4

The same for 2010.

Answer

During 2010 Tasers were not used or drawn and aimed at any animal.

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.psnj.police.uk

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