



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing
Com Sec: 10\3486

26th May 2010

Dear Lord Morrow,

To ask the Minister of Justice how many times PSNI officers have deployed tasers since they were introduced.

6624 / 10

The above mentioned question was placed before the Minister for Justice, who has deemed that this is an operational matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Therefore the Chief Constable has been asked to respond directly.

A TASER is considered to have been fired when the barbs have been discharged at a subject. Since their introduction by the Police Service of Northern Ireland on 25 January 2008, seventeen officers have fired their TASER at a member of the public (Figures as of 16 May 2010. These statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment).

In addition, a TASER is considered to have been used in an operational setting when officers do any of the following;

- Draw of a TASER in circumstances where any person perceives the action as a use of force
- Spark of the TASER commonly known as 'arcing'
- Aim the TASER or place the laser sight red dot onto a subject
- Apply and discharge a TASER in 'drive stun mode' to a subject

Please be advised that a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the Northern Ireland Assembly. If you have any queries regarding this response, please address your correspondence to Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE.

I trust this is of assistance.

*Yours sincerely,
John McCaughan*

JOHN MCCAUGHAN
Superintendent
for Chief Constable

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