



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Date: 20th April 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 348

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th April concerning use of force statistics.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1) Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021, how many use of force incidents occurred, broken down by ethnicity of subject (as perceived by the reporting officer) e.g. White, Black, Asian, Other, etc.

2) As well as these overall use of force figures, please provide:

a) How many incidents involved a less lethal weapon (CED eg Taser or AEP) being drawn but not discharged, broken down by perceived ethnicity of the subject.

b) How many incidents involved a less lethal weapon (CED eg Taser or AEP) being discharged, broken down by perceived ethnicity of the subject.

3) Can you please also provide the same data requested in questions 1, 2a and 2b, for the following time periods:

Between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020

Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019

Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018

Between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information you are requesting is not stored in a way that it is easily retrievable. The use of force log had only very recently become mandatory within the force. They were logged beforehand, but were generally sporadic, and did not provide the details required in your questions. Thus, in order to find the information for the years 2018 and previous before, we would have to individually sift through each occurrence log (thousands) to ascertain what level of force was used, if a taser was deployed etc.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Under s.16 duty to help you where we can, please find below the rest of the information we could provide before the time limit was reached.

2020/2021.

SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force
A1. Asian - Indian	9
A2. Asian - Pakistani	3
A9. Any other Asian background	6
B1. Black Caribbean	16
B2. Black African	14
B9. Any other Black background	19
M1. White & Black Caribbean	11
M2. White & Black African	3
M9. Any other mixed background	4
NS. Not stated	85
NULL	19
O9. Any other ethnic group	6
W1. White British	715
W2. White Irish	4
W9. Any other white background	62
-	276

Taser Drawn	
SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force
B1. Black Caribbean	3
B2. Black African	1
B9. Any other Black background	1
M1. White & Black Caribbean	1
M2. White & Black African	1
NS. Not stated	3
W1. White British	21
W9. Any other white background	3
-	9

Taser Discharged	
SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force

B1. Black Caribbean	1
B2. Black African	2
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2
M9. Any other mixed background	1
W1. White British	20
W9. Any other white background	3
-	6

2019/2020.

SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force
A1. Asian - Indian	8
A2. Asian - Pakistani	4
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	3
A9. Any other Asian background	4
B1. Black Caribbean	28
B2. Black African	22
B9. Any other Black background	19
M1. White & Black Caribbean	21
M2. White & Black African	3
M3. White & Asian	5
M9. Any other mixed background	13
NS. Not stated	102
NULL	19
O1. Chinese	1
O9. Any other ethnic group	5
W1. White British	928
W2. White Irish	12
W9. Any other white background	52
-	268

Taser Drawn

SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force
A1. Asian - Indian	1
B1. Black Caribbean	1
B2. Black African	1
B9. Any other Black background	1
M9. Any other mixed background	1
NS. Not stated	3
NULL	1
W1. White British	36
-	10

Taser Discharged

SelfDefinedRace	No of People subject to Force
A2. Asian - Pakistani	1
B1. Black Caribbean	2
B9. Any other Black background	1
M2. White & Black African	1

NS. Not stated	2
NULL	1
W1. White British	14
W9. Any other white background	2
-	10

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk