

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 20th December 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 1026

Reply contact name is:

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th December 2021 concerning Tasers 2015-2020.

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 the information you have requested.

You wrote:

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020?

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) between 0200 hours and 0600 hours, by Wiltshire Police officers, between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020?

How many complaints against police were upheld, relating to the use of Taser by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020?

How many complaints against police were upheld, relating to the use of Taser by Wiltshire Police officers, between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020, whereby the incident or Taser use occurred between 0200 hours and 0600 hours?

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2019 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2019?

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2018 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2018?

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Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. For each of these questions related to Taser complaints dated from 2015 to date, we currently do not have the capability within our systems to flag for this information which can then be analysed quickly and easily. This is because there are no relevant boxes/headings/reports that our Professional Standards Department can search that include the word "taser" specifically and as such we would have to conduct a manual perusal of all complaints during the years you are requesting.

In addition to this, I have spoken with our Business Intelligence Unit who would look to supply the rest of the data and they have advised me that that they can only give data from 2021 up to 2019 for the questions relating to "between 0200 hours and 0600 hours" and unfortunately we don't hold any further data prior to that. All the data was previously held on our old system "First point" and regrettably was then lost when transitioned over to "Share point". Therefore prior to these dates, the answers would be "No Information Held" for the questions "between 0200 hours and 0600 hours".

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.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020?

176 events

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) between 0200 hours and 0600 hours, by Wiltshire Police officers, between 0001 hours on 1st January 2020 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2020?

21 events

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2019 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2019?

268 events

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42 events

How many times was Taser used (APP definition of 'use'; drawn, aimed, red-dot, arced, drive stun or discharge) by Wiltshire Police officers between 0001 hours on 1st January 2018 and 2359 hours on 31st December 2018?

183 events

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150 events

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185 events

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182 events

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 3,5,6,9,10 and 11 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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