

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 2nd June 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 547

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th May 2023 concerning Taser use and Trained Officers.

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 – having consulted our Business Performance, Resource Management and Specialist Ops Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1. On how many occasions between January 2013- December 2022 a taser was used by this force where the subject was aged 18 or under.

I would like to see one table where the data is disaggregated by year e.g. 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and age e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18.

I would also like to see another table where the data disaggregated by usage type: Drawn, Aimed, Red dotted, Arced, Fired, Drive stun or Angled Drive Stun and age eg. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18.

2. How many officers currently working in this force have received comprehensive taser training in the past five years to 16th May 2023.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for 2013-2018 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Prior to 2019, all information in respect of Taser use / firing is held on manual paper files. Since 2019 we have been recording data electronically which can be easily located and retrieved.

In order to obtain the information you require for 2013-2018 inclusive, it would be necessary to firstly locate and then read each and every Taser use form in our records to see if it met your criteria and then make a note of the information that did.

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 :-

Question 1

The number of times that Tasers have been deployed against under 18's by year since 2019 have been as follows :-

2019 28
2020 19
2021 14
2022 21

Year	Age of Subject						
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2019			3	1	2	8	14
2020				2	6	6	5
2021					5	4	5
2022		1		6	7	6	1

	Year			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Aimed	3	2		3
Arced	1		1	
Drawn	7	5	2	5
Drivestun				1
Fired	2	4	2	3
Not Applic			9	5
Red Dotted	17	9		10

Question 2

The number of Officers receiving Taser Training per calendar year has been as follows :-

Taser Initial

2019	41
2020	29 + 2 Fails
2021	22 + 1 Fail
2022	77 + 2 Fails
2023	38 (to date)

Taser Refresher

2019	192
2020	216
2021	213
2022	233
2023	84 (to date)

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of years 2013-2018 inclusive 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,

Nick Penny
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