



Protecting Communities, Targeting Criminals

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Humberside Police
Corporate Development Branch
Information Compliance Unit
Humberside Police
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HU5 5SF
Tel: 01482 578038
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Mr. Basnett
Editor
Open World News

Your Ref:
Our Ref: F-2013-00521

15 April, 2013

Dear Mr. Basnett,

FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT 2000 Reference No: F-2013-00521

Thank you for your request for Information, received at this office on 21 March, 2013, in which you requested details of the following:

Request for information regarding Taser use on U20 year olds

The Freedom of Information Act requires that this request is dealt with in a manner that is motive and applicant blind. A disclosure under this legislation is considered a disclosure to the world and is considered to be on the basis that it is in the public interest.

This response is unique to Humberside Police and you are advised not to compare this like for like with any other force's response you receive.

Humberside Police Response

During the course of retrieving the data you requested, unfortunately Humberside Police is unable to supply you with the full details within the cost criteria as stated in the Act. We have established that during 2010, 2011 and 2012 tasers were fired 332 times and drawn/aimed/red dotted over 1200 times. Each time this occurs, a form is completed by the officer involved for submission to the Home Office. If a date of birth/current age is recorded, each individual form would have to be accessed to establish the age of the victim. A victim is not required by law to provide a date of birth, and indeed on many occasions incorrect data is given to the Police, consequently we could not guarantee the accuracy of dates of birth. Using a conservative estimate of up to 5 minutes to access and retrieve the information requested, I estimate that it would take a member of staff over 27 hours to establish the ages of those actually fired on, and over 100 hours to retrieve data on the withdrawn/aimed. This exceeds the 18 hours as specified in the Freedom of Information Act. Guidance also states that if one part of a request takes the request as a whole over the time limit, then the whole of the request can be exempt. As a result I am obliged to cite Section 12 – Over the Appropriate Fees Limit.

Please see below for full details of this exemption.

Chief Constable Ms J Curran Deputy Chief Constable D J Griffin QPM, MA

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A Leaver Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S M Donald QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P S Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD
Web site: www.humberside.police.uk

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

(1) s1(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' (18 – hours).

Activities that may be counted within our time estimations are:

- *Determining if the information is held;
- *Locating the information, or a document containing it;
- *Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- *Extracting the information from a document containing it.

The following have not been included within our calculations:

- * The time spent identifying information to be exempted and the time dedicated to the process of redaction.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the costs shown above.

Should you need to discuss this further please contact Sian Boynton, Information Compliance Assistant, on the above details.

Yours faithfully,

Sian Boynton
Information Compliance Assistant

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Humberside Police – Freedom of Information Complaints Review Procedure

Why Have A Complaints Process?

Humberside Police is committed to delivering an open and transparent service whenever possible and it is our intention to commit to the principles of openness embodied in the Freedom of Information Act. We will release information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest, however we may withhold information if we consider its release would cause significant harm.

If information within a document is withheld, it will be clearly marked to show where information has been removed and the legal exemption we have used. If we decline to supply all or part of any information you have asked for we will notify you in writing giving our reasons based upon legal exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are not satisfied about the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been handled you have the right to appeal. This information has been designed to help you to understand how to complain to Humberside Police. Using this process will not affect your right to complain directly to the Information Commissioner if you feel we have not complied with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

Who Can Complain?

Anyone who has made a Freedom of Information request in writing to the Force can complain. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with it, you can use the complaints process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to complain but cannot do so themselves, you can complain on their behalf but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

What Can I Complain About?

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, with the fee we have charged, or with the reasons we have given for refusing to provide information, you have the right to appeal. You can complain about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also complain about the way a request was handled, for example, the time it took to respond.

How Do I Complain?

To deal with your complaint as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the original request made and the reason for your complaint. Please put your complaint in writing and address it to:

FOI Appeals

[Humberside Police Information Compliance Unit](#)

Police Headquarters

Priory Road

Hull HU5 5SF

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What Happens To My Complaint?

Once we have enough details to identify the request, we will begin the review. The Head of The Information Compliance Unit will normally review your complaint. In the more complex cases a review panel consisting of a number of senior personnel from the Force will re-examine your complaint. We aim to complete the review process within 20 days of receiving your complaint. Upon completion we will send you the findings.

How Will I Be Notified?

Where we have not followed procedures or have failed to provide acceptable quality of service, we will apologise and explain what we will do to ensure this doesn't happen again. If our original decision to withhold information is over-turned on appeal we will send you the additional information immediately. If we believe that our original response was correct we will let you know, and inform you of your options (see below).

What If I'm Still Not Satisfied?

If we have been unable to resolve your complaint and you are not satisfied you can approach the office of the Information Commissioner, who may investigate the matter on your behalf. This option is open to you at all times, but we will endeavour to address your complaint initially, as this may lead to a speedier resolution. It is the Information Commissioner who decides whether to investigate or not. We will co-operate fully with the Information Commissioner.

If you have any further questions about the complaints process, please contact the Information Compliance Unit on 01482 317097 or alternatively you can write to:

*Head of Information Compliance Unit
Humberside Police Headquarters
Priory Road
Hull HU5 5SF
Email: Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk*

Requests for a review by the Information Commissioner should be made in writing directly to:

*The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk*

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