



Our Ref: 001269/13

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Steven Morris, Information Management

Date 24 April 2013

Dear Mr Basnett,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 25/03/2013.

I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information on the use of Tasers.

More specifically I am requesting the following:

1 a) On how many occasions in 2012 was a Taser deployed against a person under the age of 20. Please provide a breakdown of both the ages of the individuals as well as the method of Taser deployment (for example, but not limited to, drive-stun mode, firings and incidents where the Taser was drawn and aimed, etc.)

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

2012

In 2012 taser was deployed against individuals under the age of 20 on 4 occasions. Of these individuals 3 were aged 19 and the remaining individual was 18.

The Taser deployment consisted of a 'Red Dot' being required on 3 occasions and Taser being Arced on one occasion.

On 2 occasions Taser was necessary as the individuals were believed to be at risk of Self Harm. On another occasion an individual was believed to be in possession of a firearm and as a result a Taser authority was granted. On the final occasion Taser was deployed to assist officers restrain an individual who was being violent towards officers.

2011

In 2011 taser was deployed against individuals under the age of 20 on 4 occasions. The ages of these individuals can be broken down as follows:

- 1 individual aged 19
- 2 individuals aged 18
- 1 individuals aged 15

The Taser deployment consisted of a 'Red Dot' on 3 occasions and on one occasion the firing of Taser was required.

On 2 of the occasions Taser was deployed as the individual was directing violence towards occupants at an address. It was during one of these occasions that Taser had to be fired due to the individual threatening another individual with a knife.

One incident required the pre-planned use of Taser as the individual was known to be violent towards officers and Taser was used to ensure compliance.

On the final occasion Taser was deployed as a report was received of a male in the street who was in possession of a knife.

2010

In 2010 Taser was deployed against individuals under the age of 20 on 7 occasions. The ages of these individuals can be broken down as follows:

- 1 Individual aged 14
- 4 Individuals aged 17
- 1 Individual aged 18
- 1 Individual aged 19

5 of these incidents involved Taser deployment consisting of 'Red Dot'. Taser was also aimed on one occasion and aimed on the final occasion.

On 2 occasions Taser was deployed due to reports of an aggravated Burglary taking place during which it was believed that the individuals were armed with knives.

On 2 occasions Taser was deployed following reports that individuals had been threatened with knives by individuals who were known to them (relative/ ex-partner).

On one occasion Taser had been deployed during a large scale public order incident. During this incident a male was seen with a weapon and Taser was used to gain compliance.

On another occasion Taser was required following a report of a male holding another individual against their will. Officers entered the premises and were confronted by the individual who became aggressive. As a result Taser was used to gain compliance.

On a final occasion officers located an individual who was believed to be in possession of a knife. A Taser Authority was granted and Taser was used to gain compliance. A weapon was recovered from the individual.

Additional information

Leicestershire Police adhere to the recommendations set out by the Defence Scientific Advisory Sub-Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons which was amended on the 27th January 2012. All officers are required to justify the use of Taser, and its usage must be proportionate in the circumstances. All other avenues of resolving a conflict situation will be explored prior to the deployment of Taser and it will only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Professional Standards Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Steven Morris

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