

Subject: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request 241/13 - Tasers [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

From: freedom.info@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

Date: 08/04/2013 12:07

To: OpenWorld News <foi.police@openworldnews.com>

Provision of information held by Northumbria Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act')

Thank you for your e mail dated 21 March 2013 in which you made a request for access to certain information which may be held by Northumbria Police.

As you may be aware the purpose of the Act is to allow a general right of access to information held by a Public Authority (including the Police), subject to certain limitations and exemptions.

You asked:

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.)

I have provided an example of how this answer might be formatted.

Age	Drive-Stun	Firings	Draw/Aim	Total
19				

This is not exhaustive (eg. if there was a 9-year-old involved in an incident with a Taser please include that information, or if there is another method of deployment please include that information in the table.)

b) Please also provide a summary for each incident.

Please could you also provide:

- 2) The same for 2011
- 3) The same for 2010

In response:

We have now had the opportunity to fully consider your request and I provide a response for your attention.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted with the Operations Department of Northumbria Police. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Northumbria Police.

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you as follows.

Please note the information in the table below relates to how many occasions a taser was deployed to under 20 year olds, and not the number of under 20 year olds.

In order to avoid the use of relevant exemptions this information will not be broken down further.

(See attached file: FOI 241-13..xls)

If you decide to write an article/use the enclosed data we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted above so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

Due to the different methods of recording information across 43 forces, a specific response from one constabulary should not be seen as an indication of what information could be supplied (within cost) by another. Systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. For this reason responses between forces may differ, and should not be used for comparative purposes.

You may be interested to know that Northumbria Police routinely publish information via the Disclosure Log. The aim of the Disclosure Log is to promote openness and transparency by voluntarily placing information into the public arena.

The Disclosure Log contains copies of some of the information that has been disclosed by Northumbria Police in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Whilst it is not possible to publish all responses we will endeavour to publish those where we feel that the information disclosed is in the public interest.

The Disclosure Log will be updated once responses have been sent to the requester.

I have provided the relevant link below.

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/foi/disclosurelog/index.asp>

The information we have supplied to you is likely to contain intellectual property rights of Northumbria Police. Your use of the information must be strictly in accordance with the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 (as amended) or such other applicable legislation. In particular, you must not re-use this information for any commercial purpose.

How to complain

If you are unhappy with our decision or do not consider that we have handled your request properly and we are unable to resolve this issue informally, you are entitled to make a formal complaint to us under our complaints procedure which is attached.

(See attached file: FOI Complaint Rights.doc)

If you are still unhappy after we have investigated your complaint and reported to you the outcome, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office and request that they investigate to ascertain whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cleugh
Data Protection and Disclosure Advisor
Direct Dial: 0191 2956941

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

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