



## Freedom of Information Request 257/13

Response date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013

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.)

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

Age	Drive-Stun	Firings	Draw/Aim	Total
19				
18				
17				
16				
15				
14				
13				
12				
11				
10				

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

### RESPONSE

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

.....Continued

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Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Wales 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.

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

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

The information that you have requested in questions 1-3 of your request is not easily retrievable. Information relating to Taser deployment is held on a V11 form. In order to retrieve information in relation to age of the person subject to a Taser deployment and the summary of the circumstances surrounding the deployment we would first need to search for incidents where a Taser has been used. We would then need to examine each incident on the V11 Taser deployment forms to retrieve the required information. We estimate that it would take approximately 5 minutes to search and retrieve the V11 form, a further 5 minutes to determine the age of the person as the time of the Taser deployment and an additional 5 minutes to extract a summary of the circumstances surrounding the deployment.

The number of Taser deployments (Drawn, Aimed, Red Dot etc) against a person for the following years was:

2010: 33  
2011: 32  
2012: 32

Based on the above retrieval/search methodology and timescales involved we estimate that it would take approximately 24 hours to comply with your request. It is estimated that the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In the case of the police service, the appropriate limit is £450 which has been calculated to equate to a total of 18 hours of work.

If any part of the request exceeds the fees limit then Section 12 applies to the whole request.

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

Excess cost removes the forces obligation under the Freedom of Information Act, however under S16 – Duty to advise and assist, an authority is required to offer an applicant an opportunity to refine the request to allow the retrieval time to fall within the cost ceiling. If you were to refine your request to 2011 and 2012 then we may be able to assist within the appropriate limit.

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