



Keeping our communities  
safe and reassured



Guy Basnett  
Open World News

Contact: Mrs. Julie Ferrie  
Direct Line: 01785 232411  
Fax: 01785 232369  
Our Ref: FOI 3877  
Your Ref:  
Date: 25/04/2013

Dear Mr. Basnett,

**Re: Request for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, first notified to Staffordshire Police on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2013**

I refer to the above correspondence in which you request information described in the following terms.

*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.*

*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*

A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is to any extent relying on a claim that any provision in part II relating to the duty to confirm or deny

is relevant to the request or on a claim that information is exempt information must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice which-

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question, and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

On behalf of Staffordshire Police I wish to advise you that whilst I can confirm that Staffordshire Police does hold the information requested, the force claims the provision under Section 12(1) of the Act (where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit). '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 prescribed limit', this is because there is no easily retrievable format to retrieve this information and would entail searching hundreds of records to locate the requested data. This would exceed the time and cost threshold.

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics and information to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data and information. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

I would be grateful if you could now liaise with the force press office if you require any further information, context or explanation. In any event, could you please let my colleagues in the press office know if/when you are planning to publish or broadcast these details, so the force has sufficient opportunity to provide a statement or interview? Staffordshire Police's Press Office can be contacted on 01785 234864.

I thank you for your interest in Staffordshire Police and hope that you are satisfied with this answer. However, should you be dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you do have the right of complaint under section 17(7) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If you wish to appeal this decision, please inform me in writing at the below address. If you do appeal, your application and the decision will be reviewed by a Senior Decision Maker who was not involved in the original decision. Should this not resolve the matter to your satisfaction, you would then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who regulates compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you require an internal review you should notify me in writing. I can be contacted by post:

Julie Ferrie  
Freedom of Information  
Corporate Communications  
Staffordshire Police  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

By fax by way of the above number and by email:  
[foi@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Julie Ferrie  
(Freedom of Information Local Decision Maker)