



Devon & Cornwall Police

Record 1

Freedom of Information Act Request No: 003765/13

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

More specifically I am requesting the following:

1 a) On how many occasions in 2013 (up until today's date 2 July 2013) was a Taser deployed against an animal. Please provide the species of animal as well as how the Taser was deployed (i.e. drive-stun mode, firings and incidents where the taser was drawn and aimed.)

b) Please also provide a summary for each incident.

Please could you also provide:

2) The same for 2012

3) The same for 2011

4) The same for 2010

The Freedom of Information Unit has collated the following information:

Year	Animal	Taser usage	Summary
2010	Dog	Red Dot	Three dogs loose and escaped from private premises into the public domain & one of the dogs had bitten someone
2011	Dog	Fired	Officers were called to a dog on the loose. On arrival the dog was unapproachable and threatened officers. It was thought to have killed several sheep earlier in the day
2012	Dog	Fired	Dog protecting unconscious owner, already bitten ambulance staff
2012	Sheep	Fired	Following reports of a sheep lose on the A30 officers attended and after trying various other methods were unable to contain the ram and prevent it from running into the carriageway, which it did on three seperate occasions causing a danger to road users. Taser was subsequently deployed successfully and the ram was

			secured and returned to a field.
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There have been no such instances so far in 2013.

The following extract from the Force Policy and Procedure D360 Taser – Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs)

CEDs can be deployed against animals and in particular dangerous dogs. The criteria for authorisation must be satisfied, the same as for deployment in other non-firearms policing situations.

2.3.9 Special consideration must be given to contingencies when deploying CEDs in pre-planned situations involving dangerous dogs. In addition to 2.2 – 2.3.4 above the following should be considered:

- a) The small target area of the animal.
- b) The insufficient spread of the barbs resulting in localised effects on the neuromuscular system.
- c) The animal escaping into the public domain.
- d) How the animal will be secured during the activation of the CED.