



**Kent
Police**



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Date: 26 July 2013

FOI Ref: 13/07/565

Dear Mr. McNamara,

Freedom of Information Request 13/07/565

I write in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 2 July 2013, and refined on 18 July 2013.

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 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

In 2010, there were no incidents in which a taser was aimed, fired, or used in drive stun mode against an animal.

In 2011, there were 2 separate incidents in which a taser was fired at an animal. In both cases, the animal was a dog.

In the first incident, the dog had already bitten a member of the public, and continued to pose a threat to the safety of members of the public present at the scene, including children, and the attending officers. Taser was discharged to prevent further risk of harm to members of the public and attending officers.

In the second incident, the dog was considered to be out of control, and had already injured a member of the public at the scene. Attempts to restrain the dog were not successful; taser was discharged to prevent further risk of harm to members of the public and attending officers.

In 2012, there were no incidents in which a taser was aimed, fired, or used in drive stun mode against an animal.

In 2013, as far as 2 July 2013, there were no incidents in which a taser was aimed, fired, or used in drive stun mode against an animal.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the Freedom of Information Act generally, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Muggridge

Freedom of Information Administrator

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 20 working days. If your appeal concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

You may lodge your complaint by writing to:

Freedom of Information
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF