

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT

Information Compliance & Disclosure Section

Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB

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Paul McNamara
Open World News

Via email: foi.police@openworldnews.com

30 July 2013

Dear Mr McNamara,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION REFERENCE NO: 4844/13

Thank you for your request for information received by Lancashire Constabulary on the 3rd July 2013, which was as follows:-

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

Your request has now been considered and the information you are seeking can be found below:-

1. 2013 - Nil

2. 2012 - Two

Dog - Female causing public order disturbance in town centre location. Female encouraged her dog to attack members of the public and attending police officers, however dog jumped up and bit female. Taser deployed against the dog to enable officers to control it and provide first aid to female.

Dog - Report of a male being attacked in the street by a pit bull type dog. On officers arrival the dog was out of control and had bitten a male and another dog. Taser deployed to restrain the animal, which remained very aggressive. Dog destroyed humanely at the scene by attending vet.

3. 2011 - Six

Bull - Following traffic incident, reports of escaped cow on loose in town centre. Taser deployed to safely re-capture animal which had sustained minor injuries. Farmer (owner) and vet requested to attend at scene to assess animal for injuries and Taser after-effects and take appropriate action re treatment.

Dog - Ambulance crew attending to a female experiencing a fit reported very aggressive male at the scene with a dog believed to be a pit bull. On officer arrival ambulance crew were restraining the male and the dog was out of control and had attacked people and another dog. Taser deployed to restrain dog.

Dog - Taser drawn and aimed, no further details recorded.

Dog - Report of a male having been bitten by a dog. Officers attending the scene were subsequently attacked in a police vehicle by a dog. Officers went with dog's owner to secure the animal at his home address while awaiting assessment under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Taser drawn in case of need when securing the animal, but not deployed.

Dog - Intoxicated male behaving aggressively in the street with a large American Bull dog, which he did not have under control. Taser drawn in case the dog attacked officers when they attempted to arrest the male, but not deployed.

Dog - Report from ambulance crew of male being bitten by a pit bull type dog. Two dogs still present at address and preventing ambulance access. Male still being attacked. Taser deployed on dogs to enable officers to remove male from address to receive medical treatment. Dogs subsequently destroyed in line with Dangerous Dogs Act.

4. 2010 - Five

Dog - Taser fired, no further details recorded.

Dog - Officers attending another call encountered a known male in possession of two large dogs. Male known to be banned from keeping animals, and suspicion these dogs may be dangerous. Red dot used on dog to gain male's compliance in safely seizing the dogs. RSPCA to take from here.

Dog - Officers attended address to execute a drugs search warrant. On arrival male at the address was found to be holding a dangerous dog between himself and officers preventing entry. Red dot to dog at which male became compliant and allowed dog to be secured and removed. Male arrested.

Dog - Following domestic incident, female party had fled to a friend's home. Male party followed with a dog and attempted to gain entry. On officers' arrival they were threatened with the dog which was very aggressive. The couple's children were also present. The dog bit one officer to the foot, following which Taser was deployed on the dog. Dog was transferred to a local vets' for treatment and follow-up care. Dog later signed over to a specialist rescue centre.

Dog - Officers executing drugs warrant encountered two potentially dangerous dogs. Taser drawn and red dot used in case bite back spray inadequate to restrain animals.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision, you should write to the Data Protection and Information Officer, Corporate Support and Information Services – Information Compliance &

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Disclosure Section, Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB or alternatively send an email to information@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Details of the Constabulary's Freedom of Information Complaint Procedures can be found attached [to the rear of this letter/to this email].

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Lancashire Constabulary. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Bryony Hopkinson
Freedom of Information Disclosure Officer

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