



Keeping our communities
safe and reassured



Mr Paul McNamara
OpenWorld News

Contact: Mrs. Tracey Brindley
Direct Line: 01785 232411
Fax: 01785 232369
Our Ref: FOI 4104
Your Ref:
Date: 1/8/2013

Dear Mr McNamara,

Re: Request for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, first notified to Staffordshire Police on the 3rd July 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 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

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.

I can confirm Staffordshire Police hold the information requested.

There has been one fired incident during the time period you have specified. In 2013 a pitbull, which is a prohibited breed, had caused injury to a male's throat and was in a building. There were two dog handlers in attendance, who were both Taser trained. The dog was displaying very aggressive behaviour and for safety reasons it was Tasered.

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:

Tracey Brindley
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

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Brindley
(Freedom of Information Local Decision Maker)