

Our Ref: 007195/20



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 0115 967 0999
Ext 318 0888
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02 November 2020

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 29/10/2020.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested in part.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

1. Does your force use, or has it ever used CS Incapacitant Spray.

Answer: - Yes

2. If yes to above, then does your force still use CS, and if not, what does it use now.

Answer: - PAVA

3. If your force has swapped to a different incapacitant spray, when did it swap and what was the reason for the swap.

Answer: - Swapped to Pava in December 2019. The solvent used in CS spray was flammable and there was a very small risk that if used in tandem with



Taser could ignite upon deployment. This could potentially be a fire hazard. Also Cross contamination from CS Spray is very high and officers deploying CS can adversely be effected by CS spray as well as the subject that it is used against. PAVA has less cross contamination issues

4. Has your force ever had any legal action taken against it from Police Officers in relation to having had a skin reaction to CS Incapacitant Spray, if so, and the officer suffered a reaction to CS, did that officer remain employed as an officer or were they retired. If you could include numbers here.

Answer: - No Information Held, no records recorded relating to the above

5. If the officer did suffer a reaction, were they offered a reasonable adjustment to stay in work.

Answer: - N/A

6. Does your force have a mechanism in place to report any injuries officers have suffered due to CS/Pepper to a central point. Example of what I mean here is that say two people at different ends of the country both suffer a side effect from Anadin Tablets and report this their GP, then their GP should report this back to a central database so any adverse reactions can be monitored nationally.

Answer: - If there is an injury on duty caused by PAVA spray then the officer would collate an injury on duty form that would be submitted. Our Health and safety team monitor the submissions. If there was anything around any PPE or use of force then it would be brought to the quarterly use of force meeting and raised as an issue that would then be actioned and investigated for any organisational or learning or development. This meeting feeds into the organisational risk board and the chair sits on the National Arrest, control and restraint group, so there is a mechanism where any issues are escalated on a local and national level.

7. Has any member of the public successfully sued your force for skin reactions blisters etc from CS Spray.

Answer: - No Information Held, no records recorded relating to the above

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9670999 Ext 318 0888 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B.', written in a cursive style.

Electronically signed on behalf of Information Request Team

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

Your request for review must be received within 28 calendar days your response. If your request for review is not received within this time period a review will not be considered.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>