

Our Ref: 005924/12



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

12 November 2012

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 05/10/2012.

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

Please find below answers to your questions:-

RESPONSE

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

The information requested is:

1) Does your force record the part of the body the TASER has hit when discharged?

Yes, this information is recorded on the Home Office reporting form and submitted for National collation and reporting. However, the detail of this information is not recorded separately and all copies of forms are submitted to the Home Office.

2) If so, can I have the number of instances that an individual has been hit in the chest area with a TASER from 1 January 2009 until the 5th October 2012. If this requires effort to separate the results, could I please have the Meta data.

The force does not have a system in place to separately collate this information. All documents are submitted to the Home Office for data abstraction.

3) Can I have the number of times that a TASER has been discharged by your force since 1st January 2009? NB: This refers to instances when the trigger has been pulled.

Between 1st Jan 2009 and 5th Oct 2012 Nottinghamshire officers discharged Taser on 64 occasions. This includes dogs and persons.

4) Can I have the number of times a TASER has been discharged for more than 5 seconds on one particular individual from 1st January 2009 until October 5th 2012.

Once again, this data is not extracted or recorded separately to the forms submitted to the Home Office as at 1 above.

5) Are the TASERS in your force regularly tested for output variance? If so, how often?

The manufacturer carries out thorough tests on all of its tasers, which are guaranteed by an internationally recognised quality assurance body, to ensure they meet operational specifications before they are supplied.

Taser International has ISO 9001:2008 accreditation for the manufacture, design, development and distribution of tasers.

Tasers are checked to ensure they are functioning correctly (spark test).

The manufacturer is not a public authority and therefore not covered under the FOI Act.

6) Could I please have the results of these tests.

No information is held.

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 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

If so, prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision reconsidered is to telephone the case officer that is identified at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Formal Independent Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Nottinghamshire Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you can request an Independent Review.

Upon receipt for a review of the initial request response, an independent audit officer from Information Management will review the request and assess whether it has been satisfactorily processed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Requests for Independent Reviews requests should be made in writing to-

Force Information Manager
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

The Audit officer will record and communicate his/her decision to the information requester within 20 working days.

Appeals

If the findings of the formal independent review do not meet your approval, you can register an appeal against the decision.

An investigation will then take place by the Freedom of Information officer, which will be reported and presented to the Internal Appeal Board. This will include a full account of the reasoning for or against disclosure and the application of any relevant exemptions.

The Internal Appeal Board will consist of at least a member of the Chief Officer Team, a member of the Legal Team and the Force Information Manager.

Appeals should be registered in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

Alternatively E-mail: Freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Or call: 01159672507

Applications to the Information Commissioner

If you then remain dissatisfied, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

Alternatively, Write to:

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

Or call: 01625 545700.