

Our Ref: 008209/14



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

20 January 2015

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 18/12/2014.

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

Please find below answers to your questions:-

Our request comes in 3 parts:

A. Anonymised datasets

1. Please send us your anonymised datasets relating to:

- any incidents of TASER use by your officers during the period 2004-2014; and***
- any incidents where other forms of force have been used by your officers during the period 2004-2014***

We would appreciate the data to be sent to us in its most comprehensive format with detailed headings relating to all the factors for which you record information?

In compliance with the S45 Code of Practice (Datasets) we should also be grateful if you would:

- send the datasets in an electronic format that can be used by us; and***
- grant us a licence to use them in this format.***

B. Documents

In addition, please could you send us copies of:



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE
PROUD TO SERVE

- 1. Your force policy on the use of TASERS**
- 2. Any guidance issued to your officers on the use of TASERS**
- 3. Any blank forms that are used by your officers to record incidents of use of TASERS or other use of force**

C. Questions

- 1. How many officers are there in your force?**
- 2. How many officers in your force are authorised in the use of TASERS?**
- 3. What training is given to your officers prior to them being authorised to use TASERS? Is there regular refresher training?**
- 4. For each year (in the period 2004-2014), how many callouts were made for the purpose of a Section 136 (MHA 1983) removal to a place of safety? Of this, how many callouts involved the use of a TASER?**
- 5. For each year (2004-2014), how many callouts were made to (a) secure psychiatric units and (b) other psychiatric units? Of these, how many callouts involved the use of a TASER?**
- 6. For each year (in the period 2004-2014), how many times was a TASER used against a vulnerable adult?**
- 7. For each year (2004-2014), how many times was a TASER used against a person displaying signs of emotional disturbance?**
- 8. Do you record data on all incidents involving a TASER (including non-discharge incidents)?**

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.

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. To establish whether a Taser had been used against an individual who was considered as being 'vulnerable' or displaying 'signs of emotional disturbance' would require a manual search of all Taser deployment forms to ascertain whether a Taser had actually been fired and whether there was any associated records relating to your request. Such information would not be recorded within the Taser deployment form itself and is likely to be held in any associated incident report or custody report if an arrest had ensued. Each form would be required to be reviewed to establish links back to a particular incident or crime report recorded on our incident and crime recording management systems to locate any details relevant to your request. This may also involve direct enquiries with the Officer in the case. Cross references would then be required to be made against the other Force systems to ascertain whether any recorded information in respect of your request could be located. A similar Freedom of Information request received in June 2014 (FOI 003202/14) asking for only 2 years worth of information relating to Taser deployments revealed a total of 159 which would be required to be reviewed.

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20003202%2014.pdf>

It was estimated that to search one record, make any necessary enquiries and cross reference details across several systems would take approximately 20-30 minutes which would equate to approximately 53 working hours (at the more conservative estimate of 20 minutes per record). This took the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and thus engaged Section 12 (1) of the Act.

Your request asks for a total of 10 years worth of data and it is identified that Section 12 would also be engaged in this case.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Alternatively you are invited to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold – perhaps by reducing the period covered by your request. I must advise you that until we are advised of the new request period, I am unable to state for certain that this would not also exceed the cost threshold.

You may find the following link detailing Home Office compiled figures of Police use of Taser statistics to be of assistance :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-2012-to-2013-data-tables>

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?

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.

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