

4 September 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20181427**

1. How many times have police used tasers in mental health hospitals, wards, and clinics (both private and NHS run) since April 2017 to the most recent date you have for recording this (please specify what month and year this is). Please break this information down by month and provide information on the age of the person who had the taser used on them and the context for why the taser was drawn (eg concern about violence / patient trying to abscond etc)
2. Please say whether the taser was discharged and whether it was "Drive stun", "Angled drive stun" or "Fired". Or in instances of non-discharges whether it was "Drawn", "Aimed", "Arced" and "Red-dot".
3. When a taser was fired please can you also say whether an injury was obtained by the person who was tasered and, if so, what it was and what treatment was offered.

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies).

The exemption applicable to your request falls under the following:

**Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

We have received a number of very similar requests to this in the past. Detailed information such as this is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Our Safety Training Officer (who collates limited data relating to Taser deployment) has previously advised that in order to attempt to ascertain information of this nature would involve cross-referencing data with a number of different databases; this process would easily exceed the Appropriate Limit.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied a links below to the data which is collated and published on a regular basis which may be of interest as a gesture of goodwill, together with an enclosed ACPO Fact Sheet. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future.**

Generic Taser Usage Collated and Published on the SYP Website:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/about-us/our-standards/taser-use/>