

27 February 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180218

REQUEST

- 1) Please can you give me the figures of taser usage by officers in your police force for the calendar years:
 - a. 2013
 - b. 2014
 - c. 2015
 - d. 2016
 - e. 2017

- 2) Can you break down the figures in the answer to Q1 by:
 - a. The age of the person involved in the taser incident
 - b. The gender of the person involved in the taser incident
 - c. The ethnicity of the person involved in the taser incident
 - d. The type of taser use (Fired, Red Dot, Drawn etc)
 - e. The reason (if recorded) for the taser use

- 3) If possible can you also indicate the number of times that tasers have been used on people identified as having mental health issues for the calendar years:
 - a. 2013
 - b. 2014
 - c. 2015
 - d. 2016
 - e. 2017

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 following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We have received very similar requests to this in the past. Our Safety Training Officer (who collates limited data relating to Taser deployment) has advised that in order to attempt to ascertain whether a Taser has been used against someone with mental health or psychological issues would involve cross-referencing data with various 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. 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:-

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

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have provided a link below to information which has been recorded for the last two calendar years which should assist with your request as a gesture of goodwill. 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.

<http://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/taser>