

27th October 2020

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202070**

**REQUEST**

*I would like to request the following information:*

- 1** *a) Please provide the total number of times restraint techniques were used by officers in your force – i.e. the number of restraints reported by individual officers in use of force forms – for each of the past two years April 2018 to March 2019 and April 2019 to March 2020.*  
*b) For each year, please provide totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*
- 2** *a) Please provide the total number of Conducted Energy Device (CED, ie TASER) incidents recorded in your force over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020)*  
*b) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which CEDs were discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*  
*c) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which CEDs were not discharged, along with the totals for each category of ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*
- 3** *a) Please provide the total number times irritant spray was used in your force over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020)*  
*b) For each year please provide the total number of incidents recorded in which irritant spray was discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*  
*c) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which irritant spray was not discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*
- 4** *a) Please detail the number of times officers have attended incidents over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020) where the subject has been suffering from a confirmed or suspected ABD (acute behavioural disturbance)*  
*b) Please provide the number of times these incidents resulted in force such as restraint techniques, CED, irritant spray being, firearm or other force used*  
*c) For each category – i.e. no force used, restraint, CED, irritant spray, firearm, other – please provide the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known*

## **CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/taser-data-ref-20201125/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/taser-stats-ref-20201496/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/taser-stats-ref-20201405/>

Also:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/use-of-force-in-south-yorkshire/>

And we submit figures on this subject to the Home Office and details can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-force-statistics-england-and-wales-april-2018-to-march-2019>

## **FROM THE REQUESTER**

***Unfortunately, none of these provide exactly the data I've requested from South Yorkshire. It's all similar data (eg Taser use) but not quite in the time frames or as complete as I'm after.***

***I'm aware there will be a waiting period for an FOI request but could you please progress this as a request under FOI please?***

## **CLARIFICATION**

Please could you clarify the following point(s): -

*I have contacted our Comms Centre to attempt to answer Q4. This question may trigger the Section 12 – Over the 18hr rule exemption.*

*The Incident Management System which records incidents reported by the public or other organisations ie Ambulance, Social Care or happened upon by officers in the course of their duties. It also can detail officer attendance.*

*There is no flag on the Incident Management System to denote a subject is suffering an Acute behavioural disturbance, ABD. It would require a free text search. An Incident records runs as a running commentary as an incident unfolds and if a subject is thought to be "ABD" this is put in the log free text. While we have done an initial search with just the letters "ABD" this can also be used by caller handlers to highlight an abandoned call or simply be a spelling mistake (and/abd).*

*The quick search returned nearly 700 records.*

*To retrieve the information you want we would have to manually check those 700 to firstly ascertain if this is relevant to your request then eliminate the others. This would reduce the numbers but then we need to check for officer attendance and if there is mention of Use of Force and ethnicity detail.*

On top of that we would need to cross reference each incident record with another database with the Use of Force Stats on to see there was any use of restraints and then ethnicity detail.

This would seriously exceed the 18hr rule. Would you like to refine your request taking into account the above.

### **FROM THE REQUESTER**

***I understand the difficulty with trying to get this kind of information.***

***I think the easiest course of action would be to remove question four from the request and proceed with the remaining questions.***

### **RESPONSE**

#### **Q1-3.**

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 21 'Information which is reasonably accessible by other means'.**

The information is already available in the public domain in answer to these questions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-force-statistics-england-and-wales-april-2018-to-march-2019>

#### **Q2b and 2c –**

Q2b-

*Apr 2018 - Mar 2019*

*Total Number of Discharges - 77*

*Asian (or Asian British) - 4*

*Black (or Black British) - 2*

*Mixed - 2*

*Other - 1*

*White - 67*

*Unknown - 1*

*April 2019 – Mar 2020*

*Total Number of Discharges - 80*

*Asian (or Asian British) - 2*

*Black (or Black British) - 6*

Mixed - 1  
Other - 1  
White - 69  
Unknown - 0

Q2c -

April 2018 – Mar 2019

Total Number of non- Discharge usage - 433

Asian (or Asian British) - 21  
Black (or Black British) - 26  
Mixed - 4  
Other - 5  
White - 372  
Unknown - 5

April 2019 – Mar 2020

Total Number of non- Discharge usage - 483

Asian (or Asian British) - 15  
Black (or Black British) - 47  
Mixed - 9  
Other - 1  
White - 405  
Unknown - 6