

29th July 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201534

REQUEST

Please provide data on the number of times officers in your force have used Tasers on children aged 17 years old and younger.

Please can this be broken down by year (i) 2017, (ii) 2018, (iii) 2019, and (iv) 2020, to date

Please can this data be further broken down by:

(a) age; (b) ethnicity; (c) category of highest use (i.e. Drawn, Aimed, Arched, Red Dotted, Drive Stun, Angled Drive Stun and Fired); (d) reason for use; and (e) location of use (i.e. in police custody, in public, etc)

RESPONSE

I approached our Personal Safety/Taser Analyst for assistance with your request.

Using the criteria above our Analyst has provided me with the raw data which meets the criteria of your request.

As such, I can confirm that South Yorkshire Police holds information relating to the criteria of your request, but having reviewed this in detail, I am not prepared to disclose this to you in full.

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 40 (2) – Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. This may take an obvious form of 'personal information' such as a name but can also include information which, if aggregated, can pinpoint an individual.

With this in mind, whilst not explicitly naming individuals, the cumulative effect of a full disclosure i.e. age, ethnicity, reason for use, and location of use, would present the very real possibility of individuals involved being identified.

Aside from these issues however, I am prepared to disclose most of the requested data on the attached spreadsheet.