

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0167
Date: 16 February 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Police Scotland's number one priority is keeping the public safe. Tasers have protected the public and emergency service workers from violent individuals.

We have a robust training programme where officers have to pass a comprehensive course which covers not only how the device works, but the medical implications, tactics, law and guidance to follow when possible.

The nature of policing means officers often respond to dynamic and fast-moving incidents. They must deal with the situation presented to them. The priority is removing the risk anyone presents to themselves or others.

Police Scotland's use of Taser is independently scrutinised by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC). The PIRC's latest annual report highlighted officers acted appropriately when discharging Taser.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

1) Does your force record which part(s) of the body a conducted energy device (CED, e.g. TASER) makes contact with when discharged?

In terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 a public authority is only obliged to provide recorded information.

Under Section 8 of the Act, information which requires opinion or a yes/no response is not in essence a valid request.

However, in this instance and to be of assistance we can provide the following information from the Specially Training Officers Unit.

Yes

2) If so, I would like the number of instances where one of your officers has hit or made contact with an individual's chest area with a CED/TASER from 1 January 2019 until the 1st January 2022. If this requires effort to separate the results or you do not have data for that exact date range, please send the raw data.

30 times (centre front chest area).

OFFICIAL

There were no medical cardiac issues from any of those discharges. Drive stun and angled drive stun have never been used by Specially Trained Officers (STO's are uniformed officers trained to use Taser).

3) Can I also have total number of times that a CED/TASER has been discharged by your officers from 1 January 2019 until the 1st January 2022? NB: 'Discharge' should include all instances of firing, as well as the use of drive-stun and angle drive-stun functions. As before, if this requires effort to separate the results or you do not have data for that exact date range, please send the raw data.

127 times

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foiglasgow@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.