| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1314  Responded to: 13 June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many children have been Tasered in each of the last five years, broken down by the age of the person Tasered**

**Please could you also confirm how many officers at Police Scotland carry Tasers or electroshock weapons (as an absolute figure, and as a percentage of the total number of police officers).**

**For clarification, by 'Tasered', I mean any electroshock weapon use on a suspect or civilian below the age of 18.**

De-escalating situations and keeping people safe is our priority and officers will use the minimum level of force necessary. When the use of Taser is required, it helps to de-escalate situations, keeping vulnerable people safe and protects people from violent individuals. The use of Taser can increase public safety, decrease the risk of injury and has limited or prevented self-harming.

The use of force in any situation will involve a unique set of circumstances and deploying a Taser, or other tactics, will be based on a variety of factors. Any use of force must be proportionate and ethical and officers are answerable in law for it. Additionally, Police Scotland's use of Tasers is independently scrutinised by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.

I must also clarify that Armed Policing officers are deployed in their capacity as Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) and Specially Trained Officers (STOs) currently deploy with a Taser. Accordingly the response is provided in two parts, i) Specially Trained Officers (STOs) data and ii) Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) data.

**Specially Trained Officers**

Year 2019 – 0 children

Year 2020 – 2 children aged 17 & 16

Year 2021 – 2 children aged 17 & 15

Year 2022 – 1 child aged 17

Year 2023 – 3 children aged 16, 11 & 15

Police Scotland currently has 1359 officers authorised to carry Taser.

As a percentage of the total number of police officers (16713) this is 8.1%

**Authorised Firearms Officers**

There have been zero incidents where Taser has been discharged at a person under the age of 18.

Police Scotland currently has 502 Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO) who are trained in the use of Taser.

This relates to 3% of the total number of police officers.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.