| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1329Responded to: 21 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1a) For the financial year 2023 – 2024, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

## 1b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2023 – 2024? Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

## 2a) For the financial year 2022 – 2023, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

## 2b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2022 – 2023? Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

## 3a) For the financial year 2021 – 2022, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

## 3b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2021 – 2022? Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

## For clarity, I would like to know how many tasers you bought in the relevant FY, how many cartridges you bought, and the total cost of these for each FY specified.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided below.

The following exemptions are applicable to the above requested information.

**Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence**

This information, if disclosed, may assist terrorist organisations and others to identify, with some accuracy, what options, in terms of Armed Policing and Tasers, Police Scotland have available.

Disclosure would allow them take steps to prepare for such deployment which would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating their terrorist plans

and activities and cause the maximum impact of destruction and disruption.

The security of the United Kingdom is of paramount importance and Police Scotland will not disclose further details of such information if it would impact on National Security, law enforcement and the health and safety of the community.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Section 33(1) (b) – Commercial Interests and the Economy**

Providing information regarding costs would be detrimental to the current supplier.

Public disclosure of such information would also give competitive advantage to other similar companies and as a result would have a damaging impact on the current supplier who adhered to the tendering process.

Further, if the information was disclosed this may, in the future, reduce the number of companies tendering for the supply of goods and services, they being aware that the Police will disclose commercially sensitive information. Potentially therefore reducing the opportunities for the service to purchase the most efficient and cost effective service in the future and also prejudice the commercial interests of Police.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

The exemptions listed above are non-absolute and require the application of the Public Interest Test. While it could be argued that public debate and accountability in terms of Armed Policing and Tasers would favour disclosure, the Service needs to consider the impact of the release of this information into the public domain and I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service in a key law enforcement role and the preservation of public safety favours non-disclosure of the information requested.

Further, as stated above, this may, in the future, reduce the number of companies tendering for the supply of goods/services, being mindful that the Police will disclose commercially sensitive information thus potentially decreasing the opportunity for Police Scotland to purchase the most efficient and cost effective service in the future and prejudice the commercial interests of Police Scotland.

On balance the public interest on this occasion favours non-disclosure of this data.

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 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 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.