

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0624
Date: 24 March 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.

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

I'm looking for a breakdown of the number of times a Taser has been drawn and deployed across the North East, Highland and Islands and the Western Isles regions over the last three years. Could I please have the figures split by how many times a Taser has been drawn but not used and how many times it has been deployed? Can those figures also be broken down by month dating back to February 2019 to February 2022 and separated by region, for example, North East, Highland and Islands and the Western Isles regions?

The areas described have been interpreted to align to their corresponding police divisions i.e. the North East equating to Aberdeen/shire (A), and the Highlands & Islands (N), which is made up of four council areas (including the Western Isles).

Further information is available via the following link:

[Your Community - Police Scotland](#)

N.B. For the purposes of this request, all data for the Western Isles has been collated independently of the Highlands & Islands as a whole and has not been counted in both datasets.

I must also clarify that Armed Policing officers currently deploy with a Taser, deployed in their capacity as:

- i) Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) and/or
- ii) Specially Trained Officers (STOs)

Accordingly the response is provided in two parts i) and ii) respectively.

i) Table 1: Taser use by Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) in H&I and NE February 2019 – February 2022 incl.

2019						Discharged		
Month	Division	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Arced	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun

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April	A		1					
	N			2				
June	A	1		2				
Aug	N	1					1	
	A		3					
2020						Discharged		
Month	Division	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Arced	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
Feb	N	1						
June	A					2		
July	A	1						
Aug	N			2				
	N			1				
	A					3		
	A	2						
Sept	A	2						
Oct	N	1						
Nov	N		2					
Dec	A	1						
	A	1						
	N					1		
2021						Discharged		
Month	Division	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Arced	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
Feb	N	1						
	N	1						
March	A	2						
	N	1						
	N			2				
May	A	1						
	A			1				
June	A			1				
	A		1					
July	A	1			1			
Aug	N	1						
	N	1						
Oct	N			1				
	N	1						
	A			1				
2022						Discharged		
Month	Division	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Arced	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
Jan	A			2				

Please note the tables **only includes months** where incidents took place in the requested areas.
 Divisional Key: A = Aberdeen/ shire (North East), N = Highlands & Islands

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Checks confirm the Western Isles had no incidents that involved Armed Policing officer's deploying Taser during this time period. Therefore section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: notice that information is not held.

ii) Table 2: Taser use by Specially Trained Officers (STOs) in H&I and NE February 2019 – February 2022 incl.

	Highland & Islands			North East		
2019	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Mar-19	2	0	2	1	0	1
Apr-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
May-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
Jul-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
Aug-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
Sep-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
Nov-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Highland & Islands			North East		
2020	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-20	0	0	0	1	0	1
May-20	0	0	0	2	0	2
Sep-20	1	0	1	1	0	1
Nov-20	0	0	0	1	1	2
Dec-20	0	0	0	3	0	3
	Highland & Islands			North East		
2021	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-21	1	0	1	1	1	2
Feb-21	0	0	0	0	2	2
Mar-21	0	0	0	4	0	4
Apr-21	0	0	0	1	0	1
May-21	0	0	0	1	0	1
Jun-21	0	0	0	2	0	2
Oct-21	1	0	1	0	1	1
	Highland & Islands			North East		
2022	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-22	1	1	2	0	0	0
Feb-22	3	0	3	1	0	1

Please note the tables **only includes months** where incidents took place in the requested areas.
Divisional Key: A = Aberdeen/ shire (North East), N = Highlands & Islands

Table 3: Taser use by Specially Trained Officers (STOs) in the Western Isles February 2019 – February 2022 incl.

	Western Isles		
	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Oct-19	1	0	1
Sep-20	1	0	1
Jan-21	1	0	1
Oct-21	1	0	1

*Please note the tables **only includes months** where incidents took place in the requested area.

Finally, could I have the figures nationwide separated by whether a Taser has been drawn and not used and how many times it has been used dating back to February 2019?

Again the response is provided in two parts i) and ii) respectively.

i) Quarterly reports in terms of *Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)*, including Taser Deployments are publicly available. As such, 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.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) - information otherwise accessible. The information for all the periods requested is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/armed-policing-quarterly-reports/>

For the avoidance of doubt, the published information does not include data in relation to Specially Trained Officers (STOs) which is provided in Table 4 below:

ii) Table 4: Taser use by Specially Trained Officers (STOs) in Scotland February 2019 – February 2022 incl.

2019	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Feb-19	24	2	26
Mar-19	20	6	26
Apr-19	19	1	20
May-19	22	4	26

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Jun-19	14	2	16
Jul-19	23	3	26
Aug-19	19	0	19
Sep-19	17	3	20
Oct-19	19	2	21
Nov-19	12	1	13
Dec-19	15	1	16
2020	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-20	17	1	18
Feb-20	11	0	11
Mar-20	12	1	13
Apr-20	34	5	39
May-20	21	4	25
Jun-20	16	2	18
Jul-20	20	2	22
Aug-20	24	4	26
Sep-20	16	4	20
Oct-20	12	3	15
Nov-20	29	6	35
2021	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-21	29	7	36
Feb-21	28	4	32
Mar-21	36	6	42
Apr-21	27	10	37
May-21	30	5	35
Jun-21	32	2	34
Jul-21	22	5	27
Aug-21	23	4	27
Sep-21	18	6	24
Oct-21	33	7	40
Nov-21	28	4	32
2022	Non Discharge Use	Discharge	Total Uses
Jan-22	39	5	44
Feb-22	27	4	31

If you require further assistance or 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

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foi@scotland.pnn.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.