



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

22 May 2025

FOI Ref 21333

Request - You asked us the following:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of incapacitant sprays for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For the provision of the type of incapacitant sprays that received authorisation for deployment in each of these years.
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of tasers for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For the provision of the type of taser that received authorisation for deployment in these years (e.g., X26, X2, 7)
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For a breakdown of the types of baton rounds that received authorisation for deployment in these years.
- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for deployments of armed response units for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For a breakdown of the types of firearms authorised for deployment in these years.

This FOI request is being sent to all constabularies in England and Wales (and related jurisdictions and bodies). I have followed Association of Chief Police Officers guidelines for a request to be valid under FOI, in particular fulfilling the following criteria:

- It is made in writing by letter
- It clearly describes the information being sought;
- It contains the name of the applicant and contact details

This request is being made in accordance with public interest criteria and seeks to promote public understanding of the deployment of less lethal equipment, as well as foster accountability for their usage.

Clarification received from applicant 14/05/2025

I am writing on the subject of an FOI request that I sent to you on Sunday 11 May 2025. I would like to clarify certain points and make some modifications to my original request.

In my original request, I asked:

- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations of incapacitant sprays for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
 - o For the provision of the type of incapacitant sprays that received authorisation for deployment in each of these years.



- For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of tasers for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)
- o For the provision of the type of taser that received authorisation for deployment in these years (e.g., X26, X2, 7)
I am aware that you don't receive "authorisation" for these types of equipment, therefore, I would like to rephrase this request to:
 - For the total number of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025.
- o A breakdown of the circumstances of these deployments.
- o Further clarification: when I refer to "deployment", this includes a taser being drawn from its holster without being fired.
In my original request I also asked:
 - For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
- o For a breakdown of the types of baton rounds that received authorisation for deployment in these years.
 - For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for deployments of armed response units for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)
- o For a breakdown of the types of firearms authorised for deployment in these years.
I would like to modify this request to:
 - For the provision of the total number of authorisations for the deployment of attenuating energy projectiles/armed response units from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025.
- o A breakdown of the reasons for why the authorisation was given in each instance.
Please acknowledge that you have received this message, and I hope that this serves to clarify any confusion or lack of clarity regarding my initial request.

We received your request on 12/05/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer part of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 2,120 occurrences of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers. In order to ascertain a breakdown of the circumstances of these deployments, this would require a manual review of each occurrence. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 176 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

In order to assist in refining your request, data can be provided for the total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds and armed response units from 2021 to 2025. Likewise, data could be provided for the deployment of attenuating energy projectiles from 2022 to 2025.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit