



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 22986
Your Ref: FOI 22950
Date: 16 June 2026

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police on 3rd June 2026.

SP refers to the above request (22950) which was expressed in the following terms:

I'm requesting data on children under 18 who have had a Taser fired at them (meaning the probes were deployed) by officers at your police force between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year in a table:

The total number of children under 18 who had a Taser fired at them in each year.

The child's self-defined ethnicity (White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other, or Not Stated).

The total number of incidents where the child was aged 10 or under, and the total aged 11 to 17.

The recorded reason the Taser was fired (for example: serious or aggravated resistance, aggressive resistance, active resistance).

Whether the child was found to be carrying a weapon, and if so what type.

Whether the child sustained an injury, and if so what type.

On points 2 and 3: Looking at previous FOI's I know some forces have declined to provide ethnicity and age data on the grounds it could identify a child.

To be clear, I'm only asking for aggregate totals, not individual records.

Further to the above, SP also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review (22986):

I want to request an internal review of your response to FOI reference 22950.

I'm fine with the disclosure under point 1 and understand that Staffordshire Police recorded one incident in which a child under 18 had a Taser fired at them between 2016 and 2025.

However, I'm asking that the review also reconsider the absence of a year breakdown for that figure, given that my request explicitly asked for data broken down by calendar year.

I'm not pleased with the application of Section 40(2) to points 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, for the following reasons.

1. The information has not been shown to be personal data

Section 40(2) is only engaged if the information requested constitutes personal data within the meaning of section 3(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018 - that is, information "relating to an identified or identifiable natural person."

Your response does not engage with this threshold question at all.

What I requested is aggregate statistical data: the number of incidents within broad categories such as ethnicity group or age bracket. Aggregate counts of this kind do not relate to any identified or identifiable individual.

The Information Commissioner's Office has confirmed that this level of aggregation would not meet the motivated intruder test, the standard for assessing whether information is personal data. A figure such as "the child was White" or "no weapon was found" does not, alone or in combination with publicly available information, identify any specific child.

Section 40(2) cannot be engaged if the information is not personal data, and your response makes no attempt to establish that it is.

2. No specific data protection principle has been given

Even if Section 40(2) were engaged, the first condition under s.40(3A) requires that disclosure would contravene one of the UK GDPR data protection principles set out in Article 5(1).

Your response cites three paraphrases, "data is lawfully and fairly processed," "processed in line with an individual's rights," and "data is secure" - but these do not correspond to Article 5(1) principles and do not explain how disclosure of aggregate statistics would breach any of them.

You've not identified the specific principle that is said to be breached or explained why disclosure would violate it.

3. Section 40(2) cannot apply to points 4 and 5

The recorded reason the Taser was fired (point 4) and whether a weapon was found (point 5) are categorical operational data.

A figure such as "active resistance" or "no weapon found" is not information relating to an identifiable natural person under any reading of s.3(2). There is no basis for applying Section 40(2) to these points, and your response offers none.

4. Other forces have provided this data

Multiple other police forces across England and Wales have provided equivalent data in response to identical requests. You have not explained why Staffordshire's circumstances are different from those of other forces, or why data that other forces have assessed as disclosable is said to be exempt here.

5. Published national data directly contradicts the exemption

The Home Office publishes Police Use of Force Statistics in an open data format, including conducted energy device (Taser) use on children broken down by age and ethnicity.

The Children's Commissioner's April 2026 report, Police powers and children: strip searching and use of force, uses this published national data and presents age-bracket and ethnicity figures for police use of force on children across England and Wales.

The report was produced using data provided voluntarily or under statutory powers by all 44 police forces, including demographic breakdowns more granular than anything I have requested here.

The suggestion that aggregate ethnicity and age-bracket data on taser use would identify an individual child is directly contradicted by the existence of this published national data.

SP Response

An Internal Review has been completed, and SP are no longer citing a s40 exemption (personal information); the revised response is as follows:

I'm requesting data on children under 18 who have had a Taser fired at them (meaning the probes were deployed) by officers at your police force between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year in a table:

1. The total number of children under 18 who had a Taser fired at them in each year.
Disclosed, 1. This incident occurred in 2024.
2. The child's self-defined ethnicity (White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other, or Not Stated).
Disclosed, White British.
3. The total number of incidents where the child was aged 10 or under, and the total aged 11 to 17.
Disclosed, 17.
4. The recorded reason the Taser was fired (for example: serious or aggravated resistance, aggressive resistance, active resistance).
Disclosed, subject was threatening to self-harm.
5. Whether the child was found to be carrying a weapon, and if so what type.
Disclosed, yes, a knife.
6. Whether the child sustained an injury, and if so what type.
Yes, a cut to their hand (self-inflicted).

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:



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