

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 0235/2009

In reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, dated 24/04/2009.

Your request was received as:

Please can you provide me with the following information about taser usage under the Freedom of Information Act.

1) For each year since tasers were introduced by the force, how many times:

\*\* Has their use been authorised

\*\* Have they been deployed

\*\* Have they been actually fired

Please include every instance - including accidental discharges and times when the gun was discharged but missed.

2) In each instance please state the age and gender of the person targeted or tasered (or state if an animal / other).

3) Please also provide where and when the incident happened and reasons for the authorisation/deployment/usage for each instance.

4) How many officers in the force are trained to use the taser?

5) How many of the guns does the force currently own?

6) What plans exist to extend the use of the taser within the force? When will these come into effect? Specifically, how many officers will be trained to use them?

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) requires us to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

We have completed all searches within Cambridgeshire Constabulary and hereby enclose your response.

>>>Your request asked a series of questions about Taser usage. Some of the information you have requested is already available on other websites. Where possible we have included the appropriate links in our response.

In answer to your first question I can advise that Tasers were introduced in Cambridgeshire on 1 December 2005. The table below gives details, by fiscal year, of their use. You may find the following website link useful as it is to the ACPO Guidance on the Operational use of Taser.

<http://www.westmercia.police.uk/images/mog/36'2005%20-%20Revised%20Taser%20Operational%20Guidance%20-%20attachment.pdf>

Fiscal Year	Taser Authorised	Taser Deployed	Operational Taser Discharge	Accidental Discharge
2005/06	As per all firearms operations from 1/11/05	0	0	1
2006/07	As per all firearms operations	7	2	3
2007/08	111	17	1	0
2008/09	492	77	19	1
2009/10	35	6	1	0

In answer to your second and third questions the following table gives the requested information. Within the table we have given the location as the Division within Cambridgeshire Constabulary where the incident occurred. For your information Northern is based around Peterborough and the north of the county, Southern is based around Cambridge and the south of the county while Central is based around Huntingdon and Wisbech.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>	<b>Approx. age of subject</b>	<b>Gender of subject</b>
2006/07	Northern	During arrest of male who had assaulted another with a hammer.	35	Male
2006/07	Central	Male previously discharged a shotgun in the street and believed now armed with knife.	33	Male
2007/08	Southern	Male with a knife threatening suicide	37	Male
2008/09	Central	Female armed with a knife threatening suicide	35	Female
2008/09	Southern	Drunken, aggressive male resisting lawful arrest	19	Male
2008/09	Central	Violent male with mental health issues and access to weapons having caused damage.	26	Male
2008/09	Southern	Male threatening to self harm armed with a knife	44	Male
2008/09	Southern	Male threatening to self harm armed with a knife	44	Male
2008/09	Southern	Male in the process of self harming armed with a knife	24	Male
2008/09	Northern	Male under influence of steroids having assaulted his partner	46	Male
2008/09	Northern	Male under influence of steroids having assaulted his partner	46	Male
2008/09	Southern	Violent male in the process of being sectionaed under the mental health act.	25	Male
2008/09	Central	Female with knife threatening officers	40	Female
2008/09	Northern	Male stabbed another believed still armed with the knife.	18	Male
2008/09	Northern	Male in possession of handgun	41	Male
2008/09	Southern	Female holding her children hostage threatening to shoot them	38	Female
2008/09	Southern	Arrest of large, aggressive male under influence of alcohol	27	Male
2008/09	Northern	Male self harming with knife under influence of drink / drugs	25	Male
2008/09	Central	Wild dog having attacked persons	N/a	Dog
2008/09	Northern	Two dogs having attacked livestock and persons	N/a (Taser Missed)	Dog
2008/09	Northern	Male in possession of knife having stabbed another	24	Male
2008/09	Northern	Male in possession of knife having stabbed another	24	Male
2009/10	Northern	Male assaulted another in possession of a knife	35	Male

Our response to question 4 is that Cambridgeshire have 49 officers authorised to use Tasers.

Question 5 asked for the number of Tasers owned by Cambridgeshire constabulary. I can advise we have 173 Tasers.

Our response to question 6 is that we hold no information to answer this question. The Home Office have however put out a Press Release outlining plans to provide police forces with additional Tasers. The link below is to their Press Release and our answer to question 5 already includes the 150 additional Tasers allocated to Cambridgeshire.

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/6,000-new-tasers-for-police>  
[http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/6,000\\_new\\_taser.pdf?view=Binary](http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/6,000_new_taser.pdf?view=Binary)