

Ref: 1006737

By email: request-436473-25a08c2f@whatdotheyknow.com

31 October 2017



independent
police complaints
commission

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annibynnol
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Dear Sir,

Re: Request for Information

Thank you for your email received by the IPCC regarding your request for information. I can confirm that this request has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I note that you have requested:

For the last five years, broken down by year, the number of public complaints made to the IPCC about police forces and relating to:

1. *Taser;*
2. *Baton;*
3. *Physical force;*
4. *Injury as result of a police car/RTC/Pursuit*

Having considered your request I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by the IPCC.

A complaint about the police can be made by one of the following methods:

- Directly to the police force concerned
- Via the IPCC website
- Via the IPCC by post or email

Where a complaint is made directly to the force, the IPCC does not have sight of it unless the police force concerned refers it to us, nor do we view complaints made via the IPCC website as these are sent automatically to the force concerned.

When a complaint is made via the IPCC by post or email, this is recorded on our systems prior to being forwarded to the police force concerned for them to make a recording decision under the Police Reform Act 2002.

To give the number of complaints made via the IPCC by post or email in each of the categories you have requested, we have used factors to identify them. The IPCC records factors on cases so that it can monitor trends and themes in cases we deal with. A factor is a theme that might apply in the given circumstances of a case and may be relevant to the incident to which the complaint relates but may not be what the complaint is about. Therefore the data presented here should only be used for illustrative purposes only. It should also be noted that a case can have more than one factor applied to it.

Using information provided by the complainant, we are able to apply one or more of a number of case factors. Case factors are used by operational staff to help identify the nature of the circumstances of a case. Application of case factors is reliant on individual discretion and as such they should not be relied on to provide definitive data.

For your request we have identified complaints with the following case factors:

Taser

Any incident that involves the deployment of Taser, including instances where it is drawn and the individual is 'red-dotted' or if used in stun mode.

Baton

The use of, or threat to use, a police baton.

Physical restraint (including restraint equipment)

Any complaint or allegation relating to physical restraint used by police officers or relating to the use of restraint equipment by police officers.

Restraint equipment includes leg restraints, emergency restraint belts and spit hoods but does not include handcuffs.

Use of force (not known) and Use of force (other)

Referrals where the use of force was either not specified or did not fall into the use of force case factor category list: AEP/Baton round, Baton, CS spray/pepper, Firearm-conventional, Handcuffs, Physical restraint, Police dog/horse, Restraint equipment, TASER.

Road Traffic Incident

This factor covers all road traffic incidents involving the police, including fatal and non-fatal. This factor is only applicable to cases in which the police were directly involved in the road traffic incident and does not apply to cases in which the police are responding to a road traffic incident which has already occurred.

Road Traffic Incident with an addition of factor of serious injury

As the Road Traffic Incident factor does not specify whether an injury was caused or not, we have included cases where both the Road Traffic Incident and Serious Injury factors were selected.

The information set out in the table below relates to complaints made to the IPCC about the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2017.

Please note, this information is taken from a live data source and as such may differ to published figures.

Received period (1 April to 31 March)	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total complaints made via the IPCC by post or email	10,046	7,443	6,625	5,669	5,463
Complaints made via the IPCC with a factor of Taser	28	26	25	17	24
Complaints made via the IPCC with a factor of Baton	15	8	12	9	9
Complaints made via the IPCC with a factor of Physical restraint	170	145	158	101	111
Complaints made via the IPCC with Use of force (not known) or Use of force (other)	314	227	255	194	236
Complaints made via the IPCC with a Road Traffic Incident factor	284	128	112	79	68
Complaints made via the IPCC with a Road Traffic Incident factor and serious injury factor	1	3	5	1	5

As mentioned, complaints made to the IPCC account for only some of the complaints recorded by police forces. Further information about complaints and allegations recorded by police forces is published in our annual police complaints statistics, available here:

<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/page/annual-police-complaints-statistics>

I trust you will find this information useful. More information about the role of the IPCC can be found in the IPCC Annual Report. This can be found on the IPCC website using the following link:

<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/page/annual-report-and-plans>

If you are not satisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review by our FOI appeals officer, who has had no involvement in dealing with your request. If you wish to complain about any aspect of this decision, please contact:

Internal Reviewer
Independent Police Complaints Commission
90 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6BH

All emails requesting a review should be sent directly to: foi@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk

Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner; however, I should point out that under section 50(2)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, you are normally obliged to exhaust the IPCC's own internal complaint mechanism before complaining to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Oakley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Oakley
Head of Policy and Public Affairs
Independent Police Complaints Commission