



## Gloucestershire Constabulary

*People First Policing*

Dear Mr James,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2013.4612

On the 22/05/2013 you sent a letter constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please provide the following information (if the information is not available or needs clarification then disregard the question):

1. How many police officers routinely carry a TASER?
2. How many police officers are trained to use a TASER?
3. Which departments/units (e.g. Dog Section, Roads Policing Unit) contain officers who routinely carry a TASER?
4. In regard to question 3, how many police officers work in these departments/units and how many police officers carry TASER in said departments/units.
5. Out of all police officers in Gloucestershire Constabulary, what is the percentage of police officers who routinely carry a TASER?
6. Please state the methods in which the TASER is carried by police officers (e.g. belt holster, TAC Vest holster, leg holster)
7. What colour is the personal protection vest worn by officers in each applicable department?
8. Does the colours of the TASER in Gloucestershire Constabulary vary?
9. If yes to question 6, please state the colour variations.
10. If no to question 6 please state the colours of the TASER used by Gloucestershire Constabulary (e.g. yellow and black, blue, black)
11. How many TASERs does Gloucestershire Constabulary currently hold?
12. How many times was the TASER used in the following modes in 2012;
  - a. discharge;
  - b. arced;
  - c. drive-stun;
  - d. red-dot;
  - e. aimed;
  - f. not stated



## Gloucestershire Constabulary

*People First Policing*

13. How many times was the TASER used by each applicable department/unit within Gloucestershire Constabulary in the following modes in 2012;
- discharge;
  - arced;
  - drive-stun;
  - red-dot;
  - aimed;
  - not stated

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that the Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information. However, the information is exempt by virtue of Section 12 of the Act. The reason for this is that the forms that are completed and returned to the Home Office regarding the use of Tasers do not include in which department the Officer involved works. Therefore in order to answer question 13, we would need to review each form (131 forms, as per question 12), look up where the Officer currently works and then make enquiries to find out in which area they worked in 2012. This would invoke the fees limit, as stated above.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1)– Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act 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 appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- Determining whether information is held
- Locating it
- Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice of your request.

However, outside of the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm the following information:

- Taking into account shift patters, approximately 25 officers carry a taser at any one time.
- As at the date of your request, 220 Police Officers are authorised to use Tasers.
- There are 3 departments/divisions that routinely carry tasers; Dog Section, Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) and Local Policing Area (LPA) Staff.
- The number of Police officers who work in the areas stated in question 3 are as follows:

Dog Section	17
ARVs	44
LPA Staff	159
- Approximately 10% of all Police Officers in Gloucestershire routinely carry a taser.
- Taser's are carried by Police Officers via a tac vest.





## Gloucestershire Constabulary

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7. All Protection Vests worn by Officer in Gloucestershire Constabulary are black.
8. The colour of Taser's in Gloucestershire Constabulary does not vary.
9. Not applicable, the colour of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Taser's do not vary.
10. The tasers used by Gloucestershire Constabulary are yellow.
11. Gloucestershire Constabulary currently holds 103 tasers.
12. Tasers were used in the following modes by Gloucestershire Constabulary in 2012:

a) Discharge	30
b) Arced	3
c) Drive-Stun	7
d) Red-Dot	91 (we do not differentiate between Red-Dots and Aims)
e) Aimed	As above
f) Not Stated	0
13. Please see the Section 12 Exemption above.

I hope this information is useful.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss G Richards  
Assistant Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary