| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1291  Responded to: 08 June 2023 |
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## Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1) Could you detail how many times a Taser gun has been successfully fired at an individual in the following years

## a)2022 - 66

## b)2021 - 66

## c)2020 - 43

## d)2019 - 29

Information regarding Armed Policing Taser discharges is released quarterly on the Police Scotland internet page [Armed Policing Quarterly Reports - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/armed-policing-quarterly-reports/).

You may also be interested in data published in relation to the use of force [Use of Force - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/use-of-force/)

The following published Standard Operating Procedures may also be of use:

[Adult Support and Protection SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/dl1px33z/adult-support-and-protection-sop.pdf)

[Child Protection SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/boxmpeao/child-protection-sop.pdf)

[Care and Welfare of Persons in Police Custody SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/0mfjn3pa/care-and-welfare-of-persons-in-police-custody-sop.pdf)

[Mental Health and Place of Safety SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/552h0t3x/mental-health-and-place-of-safety-sop.doc)

## 2) Of those who were shot by a Taser gun, could you provide an ethnicity breakdown in the following years

| **Year** | **Ethnicity** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | W1 | 29 |
| 2020 | W1 | 40 |
| 2020 | W9 | 1 |
| 2020 | B2 | 2 |
| 2021 | W1 | 65 |
| 2021 | W9 | 1 |
| 2022 | W1 | 60 |
| 2022 | B9 | 1 |
| 2022 | A2 | 1 |
| 2022 | W9 | 4 |

Ethnicity Categories – W1 – White British, B2 – African, A2 – Asian Pakistani, W9 – Any other White Background, B9 – Any other Black Background

## 3) Of those who were shot by a Taser gun, could you provide a gender breakdown in the following years: a)2022 b)2021 c)202 d)2019

| **Year** | **Male** | **Female** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | 27 | 2 |
| 2020 | 40 | 3 |
| 2021 | 59 | 7 |
| 2022 | 64 | 2 |

## 4)Of those who were shot by a Taser gun, how many were under the age of 18 at the time that they had a Taser fired at them, in the following years

## a)2022 - 1

## b)2021 - 3

## c)2020 - 2

## d)2019 - 0

## 5)Of those who were shot by a Taser gun AND were under the age of 18 at the time of the incident, could you detail how many were Asian, Black or any other ethnic minority in the following years? a)2022 b)2021 c)202 d)2019

## None of those under 18 years of age were of these ethnicities.

## 5)Of the incidents where a Taser gun was fired at an individual, how many took place in a setting where vulnerable people reside or are present, i.e care home, assisted living accommodations, psychiatric hospital or any other health care facilities in the following years?

## a)2022 - 3

## b)2021 - 0

## c)2020 - 0

## d)2019 - 1

## 6) Of the incidents where a Taser gun was fired at an individual, how many resulted in the individual being referred to mental health services? a)2022 b)2021 c)202 d)2019

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there is no centralised point where recording of this type of information is held. It is estimated that to research different systems and cross refer each individual/incident would take a conservative estimate of 15 minutes each resulting in 51 hours for the above 204 incidents . As such this would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## 7) How many times has an individual died as a direct consequence of being Tasered by one of your police officers in the following years? a)2022 b)2021 c)202 d)2019

There have been zero deaths where an individual died as a direct consequence of a Taser discharge.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.