| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1317  Responded to: 9th June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## On how many occasions between January 2013- December 2022 a taser was used by this force where the subject was aged 18 or under.

## I would like to see one table where the data is disaggregated by year e.g. 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and age e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18.

## I would also like to see another table where the data disaggregated by usage type: Drawn, Aimed, Red dotted, Arced, Fired, Drive stun or Angled Drive Stun and age e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18.

De-escalating situations and keeping people safe is our priority and officers will use the minimum level of force necessary. When the use of Taser is required, it helps to de-escalate situations, keeping vulnerable people safe and protects people from violent individuals. The use of Taser can increase public safety, decrease the risk of injury and has limited or prevented self-harming.

The use of force in any situation will involve a unique set of circumstances and deploying a Taser, or other tactics, will be based on a variety of factors. Any use of force must be proportionate and ethical and officers are answerable in law for it. Additionally, Police Scotland's use of Tasers is independently scrutinised by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.

I must also clarify that Armed Policing officers are deployed in their capacity as Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) and Specially Trained Officers (STOs) currently deploy with a Taser. Accordingly the response is provided in two parts, i) Specially Trained Officers (STOs) data and ii) Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) data.

i) The information in Table 1 provides the number of Taser uses by Specially Trained Officers (STOs), broken down by age.

The information in Table 2 provides the usage type by Specially Trained Officers (STOs), broken down by age.

It should be noted that Police Scotland only introduced STOs on 1st June 2018 and as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek for the period prior to 1st June 2018 is not held by Police Scotland.

**Table 1: Number of Taser Uses by Specially Trained Officers – under 18’s by age**

| **Year** | **12yrs** | **13yrs** | **14yrs** | **15yrs** | **16yrs** | **17yrs** | **18yrs** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2018 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | **10** |
| 2019 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | **16** |
| 2020 | 3 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | **15** |
| 2021 | 1 | - | 3 | 6 | 13 | 8 | 11 | **42** |
| 2022 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 5 | **33** |
| **Total** | **5** | **4** | **8** | **15** | **30** | **25** | **29** | **116** |

**Table 2: Taser Usage type by Specially Trained Officers – under 18’s by age**

| **Type** | **12yrs** | **13yrs** | **14yrs** | **15yrs** | **16yrs** | **17yrs** | **18yrs** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2018** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draw | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 3 | **7** |
| Aimed | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | **2** |
| Arced | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| Red Dot | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | **1** |
| Fired | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| **2019** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draw | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | **10** |
| Aimed | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | **1** |
| Arced | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | **1** |
| Red Dot | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | **4** |
| Fired | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| **2020** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draw | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | **6** |
| Aimed | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| Arced | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| Red Dot | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | **5** |
| Fired | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | **4** |
| **2021** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draw | - | - | - | 1 | 8 | 2 | 2 | **13** |
| Aimed | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | **6** |
| Arced | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| Red Dot | - | - | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | **19** |
| Fired | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | **4** |
| **2022** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draw | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | **10** |
| Aimed | - | - | - | 2 | 5 | - | 2 | **9** |
| Arced | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | **1** |
| Red Dot | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | - | **12** |
| Fired | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | **1** |
| **Total** | **5** | **4** | **8** | **15** | **30** | **25** | **29** | **116** |

*This data refers only to Specially Trained Officers (STOs) and does not include Taser Use by Authorised Firearms Officers. Data is correct as at 25/05/2023.*

I can also advise you that quarterly reports in terms of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) are publicly available via the link below:-

[Use of Force - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/use-of-force/)

ii) The information in Table 3 provides the number of Taser Use by Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), broken down by age.

The information in Table 4 provides the usage type by Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), broken down by age.

**Table 3: Number of Taser uses by Authorised Firearms Officers – under 18s by age**

| **Year** | **5yrs** | **8yrs** | **14yrs** | **15yrs** | **16yrs** | **17yrs** | **18yrs** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2013 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | **6** |
| 2014 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | **3** |
| 2015 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| 2016 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | **1** |
| 2017 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **0** |
| 2018 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | **1** |
| 2019 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | **4** |
| 2020 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | **4** |
| 2021 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 2 | **9** |
| 2022 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 5 | **9** |
| **Total** | **1** | **1** | **3** | **2** | **8** | **11** | **11** | **37** |

**Table 4: Taser Usage Type by Authorised Firearms Officers – under 18s by age**

| **Year** | **Age (years)** | **Taser Usage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2013** | 15 | Drawn/Fired |
| 16 | Red Dot |
| 16 | Red Dot |
| 17 | Red Dot/ Drawn |
| 18 | Aimed |
| 18 | Red Dot |
| **2014** | 16 | Aimed |
| 17 | Red Dot |
| 17 | Red Dot |
| **2016** | 18 | Drawn |
| **2018** | 17 | Red Dot/ Drawn |
| **2019**  *\*see note below* | 5 | Drawn |
| 8 | Drawn |
| 16 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Red Dot |
| **2020** | 14 | Drawn |
| 15 | Red Dot |
| 16 | Drawn |
| 17 | Drawn |
| **2021**  *\*see note below* | 16 | Red Dot |
| 17 | Drawn |
| 17 | Drawn |
| 17 | Drawn |
| 17 | Drawn |
| 17 | Drawn |
| 17 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Drawn |
| 18 | Drawn |
| **2022** | 14 | Red Dot |
| 14 | Drawn |
| 16 | Drawn/ Red Dot |
| 16 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Drawn |
| 18 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Red Dot |
| 18 | Aimed |

*This data refers only to Authorised Firearms Officers and does not include Taser use by Specially Trained Officers. Data is correct as at 25/05/2023.*

Please note\* in relation to one of the incidents recorded during 2019, a Taser was drawn during an operation to detain an adult male and an adult female. The female adult exited the premises in the company of an eight year old and a five year old. The Taser was only drawn by attending AFOs for the adult female, but ensured accurate recording due to the presence of children.

Please note\* in relation to one of the incidents recorded during 2021, five persons of 17 years and two persons of 18 years were removed from one premises as part of a single operation along with a further twenty-one persons over 18 years.

For clarity, I can confirm that AFOs have not discharged a Taser at any person under the age of 18 since 2013 to date.

Furthermore, I can advise you that quarterly reports in terms of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), including Taser Deployments are publicly available via the link below:-

[Armed Policing Report 2022/23 - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/armed-policing-quarterly-reports/armed-policing-report-2022-23/)

## How many officers currently working in this force have received comprehensive taser training in the past five years to 16th May 2023.

Within Police Scotland’s Armed Policing Unit specifically, from the 18th January 2018 to 16th May 2023, a total of 265 Officers have completed comprehensive Taser training as part of an Armed Response Vehicle Officer’s course.

These officers, as well as an additional 240 (approx.) Officers who were trained prior to 2018 are required to requalify in Taser tactics and accuracy each training year.

Police Scotland overall have trained 1,718 Officers currently within the force. Of this number, 359 have been permanently withdrawn.

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.