| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3234  Responded to: 28 January 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I'd like information relating to the number of times an officer has used a firearm (i.e. shot) against an out of control dog. I'd also be interested in how many times a Taser has been used, however, records relating to a firearm are of more importance.

## I'd be grateful to receive the figures for the last ten years, if possible, beginning with the most recent year (2024) broken down by month. In addition I'd like to know the breed and any other details about the dog and whether a human or animal had been injured by said dog and whether the incident and use of weapon was in public or private place.

The tables below detail Taser and Firearm deployments in relation to out of control dogs.

It is important to note that information has been supplied separately as the criteria for issue for an Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) differs from the tasking of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) and they would not deploy together to the same incident.

The information in the table below relates to Taser discharges by STOs since the STO programme commenced in 2018.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Public/ Private** | **Person Injured** | **Breed** |
| 03/12/2024 | Public | Yes | Labrador/Mastiff Cross |
| 14/07/2024 | Public | Yes | Pitbull/Staffy Cross |
| 12/01/2023 | Public | No | German Shepherd |
| 22/09/2019 | Private | No | Pitbull |

The information in the table below relates to AFO discharges on dogs.

Please note that an AFO may also carry a Taser, and for the incident in December a Taser was used by an AFO.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month/Year** | **Conventional Shot** | **Taser** | **Public/ Private** | **Person Injured** |
| Jan 2024 | Yes | No | Public | Yes |
| Feb 2024 | Yes | No | Public | Yes |
| Dec 2024 | No | Yes | Private | Yes |
| 2023 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2022 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2021 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2020 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2018 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2017 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2016 | Nil | Nil |  |  |
| 2015 | Nil | Nil |  |  |

Please note that Armed Policing do not record information relating to the breed of dog and in terms of section 17 of the Act, the information sought is therefore not held by Police Scotland.

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.