



Firearms and Protective Equipment
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Our Ref CFP\7\10\005\016\025\03\001\01- PT
TASER report 16mth 11/3/9 (6511)

Date 05th May 2009

FIGURES ON THE REPORTED AND RECORDED USES OF TASER BY POLICE FORCES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

This is the first report following the trial of the extension of the use of TASER to specially trained units between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008. The reports attached to this letter detail TASER usage for the following periods and incident types.

Reports on the use of TASER are broken down into three tables:

- 1. All uses of TASER in England and Wales since introduction in April 2004 up to 31 December 2008 (Table 1);**
- 2. TASER use by authorised firearms officers outside of a firearms authority from 20 July 2007 to 31 December 2008 (Table 2);**
- 3. TASER use by specially trained units from 1 September 2007 to 31 December 2008 (Table 3).**

The notes on the following page provide an explanation of the way the figures in the tables have been processed and collated.

NOTES FOR TABLES:

- a) The tables detail the number of uses of TASER – only the highest level of ‘use’ for each TASER deployment is recorded. TASER use as defined by Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO): Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2 (available under publications at www.westmercia.police.uk)
- b) The tables show the number of TASER ‘uses’ as opposed to the number of TASER ‘incidents’. This is designed to ensure full transparency on TASER deployment as there may be more than one ‘use’ of TASER at an ‘incident’.
- c) Direct comparisons between forces should be drawn with caution for the following reasons:
- Not all forces have participated in the use of TASER during all the periods. For example, this is why not all forces are currently represented in table 3.
 - The population and size and demographic within each force area varies considerably.
 - TASER deployment forms are not always received in a timely fashion or in chronological order.
 - We cannot be certain that historically all forces have recorded TASER usage in the same way, although this has been mitigated by ACPO issuing clear instructions to forces on reporting procedures (Latest Circular Nov 2008).
- d) All figures are based on forms detailing TASER deployments between the stated dates and submitted by police forces to the Home Office Scientific Development Branch before 20 February 2009. Forms from incidents prior to the reporting period received after the aforementioned date will be included in subsequent reports. Data validation methods include inter-observer reliability and comparative checks of previous reports to assess any anomalies in trends.
- e) In 2004, following a trial in five forces, it was agreed to allow chief officers of all police forces in England and Wales to make TASER available to authorised firearms officers. The [Home Office announced on 19 July 2007](#) that authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales would be able to use TASER (from 20 July 2007) in a greater set of circumstances. These officers are now able to deploy TASER in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject.

It was also announced in July 2007 that the deployment of TASER by specially trained police units who are not firearms officers, but who are facing similar threats of violence, would be trialled in ten police forces.

The 12-month trial commenced on 1 September 2007 and finished on 31 August 2008. It took place in the following forces: Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire.

Following the success of the trial, [the Home Secretary agreed on 24 November 2008](#) to allow Chief Officers of all forces in England and Wales, from 1 December 2008, to extend TASER use to specially trained units in accordance with current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy and guidance. This sets out that TASER can only be used where officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s).

- f) Previous publications of the figures on the use of TASER in England and Wales can be found at: <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/firearms/taser/>
- g) In keeping with our open and transparent approach on the use of TASER, updated figures will normally be published on a quarterly basis.

**Table 1 - TASER use in England and Wales excluding the original 2003 pilot
- 22 April 2004 to 31 December 2008**

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	26	5	14	68	5	25		143
Bedfordshire Police	26	2	1	22	4	6		61
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	15	2	1	79	4	13		114
Cheshire Constabulary	15		6	17	1	4		43
City of London Police	1			4				5
Cleveland Police	35	1		56		8		100
Cumbria Constabulary	6	2	3	42	1	3	1	58
Derbyshire Constabulary	5			44	1	6		56
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	40	4	3	49	3	8		107
Dorset Police	29	5	5	26	1	7		73
Durham Constabulary	29	1		62	2	3		97
Dyfed-Powys Police	2			7	1	1		11
Essex Police	24	4	2	19		2		51
Gloucestershire Constabulary	26	1		36	2			65
Greater Manchester Police	19	8		18		1		46
Gwent Police	7		3	46	4	4		64
Hampshire Constabulary	12			6		1		19
Hertfordshire Constabulary	19	2	2	38		24		85
Humberside Police	28	1	11	103	6	7		156
Kent Police	3		2	15		7		27
Lancashire Constabulary	49	5	2	57	1	7		121
Leicestershire Constabulary	11	1	21	28	4	8		73
Lincolnshire Police	9	2	2	13	2	3		31
Merseyside Police	15	2	1	34	12	6		70
Metropolitan Police	254	47	19	186	27	85	3	621
Norfolk Constabulary	32	1	7	15	2	2		59
North Wales Police	38	6	5	85	9	12		155
North Yorkshire Police	16	4	6	46	4	8		84
Northamptonshire Police	8	1		7		3		19
Northumbria Police	84	9	3	311	40	109	1	557
Nottinghamshire Police	8		1	14		1		24
Police Service of Northern Ireland	2			10				12
South Wales Police	18	3	4	29	2	1		57
South Yorkshire Police	9		1	9				19
Staffordshire Police	22	6	9	69	9	8	1	124
Suffolk Constabulary	12	1		16	1	6		36
Surrey Police	2	3	3	21	2	2		33
Sussex Police	18	1	1	40	1	5		66
Thames Valley Police	12	2		12	1			27
Warwickshire Police	1				1	1		3
West Mercia Constabulary	30	3	3	52	2	3		93
West Midlands Police	47	4	1	39				91
West Yorkshire Police	95	9	10	112	5	12	1	244
Wiltshire Constabulary	21	1	1	20	1			44
X Not Stated	1				1			2
Totals	1181	149	153	1982	162	412	7	4046

NB: Only the highest level of 'use' for each TASER deployment is recorded.

'Use' as defined by ACPO: TASER Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2

Table 2 - TASER use in England and Wales by authorised firearms officers outside of a firearms authority from 20 July 2007 to 31 December 2008

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	15	3	11	29	2	6		66
Bedfordshire Police	3	2		6	1			12
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	8	2	1	48	1	10		70
Cheshire Constabulary	4		2	6		3		15
City of London Police	1			2				3
Cleveland Police	3			10		1		14
Cumbria Constabulary	3	2	2	32	1	1		41
Derbyshire Constabulary	4			15	1	3		23
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	10	3	1	19				33
Dorset Police	8	3	2	3				16
Durham Constabulary	1							1
Dyfed-Powys Police				3	1			4
Essex Police	15	3	2	12		1		33
Gloucestershire Constabulary	14	1		18	2			35
Greater Manchester Police	6	1		9				16
Gwent Police	1		2	14	2	4		23
Hampshire Constabulary								
Hertfordshire Constabulary	4	1	2	19		15		41
Humberside Police	23	1	6	57	3	6		96
Kent Police	1		1	11		6		19
Lancashire Constabulary	27	4	2	31		7		71
Leicestershire Constabulary	7	1	17	22	4	8		59
Lincolnshire Police	2	2	1	4		3		12
Merseyside Police	3			9	2			14
Metropolitan Police Service	14	6	2	9		1		32
Norfolk Constabulary	17		7	10	2	2		38
North Wales Police	11	3	1	16	2	3		36
North Yorkshire Police	8	4	5	25	2	7		51
Northamptonshire Police	2	1		1		2		6
Northumbria Police	18	3	2	44	16	23		106
Nottinghamshire Police	2			12		1		15
South Wales Police	8	3	4	24	2	1		42
South Yorkshire Police	4		1	4				9
Staffordshire Police	14	6	6	21	2	5		54
Suffolk Constabulary	1			1		2		4
Surrey Police	1	1	2	12	1	1		18
Sussex Police	8		1	20	1	3		33
Thames Valley Police	5	2		6				13
Warwickshire Police								
West Mercia Constabulary	23	3	1	38	1	2		68
West Midlands Police	2			1				3
West Yorkshire Police	31	3	2	28		4		68
Wiltshire Constabulary	13	1	1	11	1			27
Totals	345	65	87	662	50	131	0	1340

NB: Only the highest level of 'use' for each TASER deployment is recorded.

'Use' as defined by ACPO: TASER Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2

Table 3 - TASER use in England and Wales by specially trained units from 1 September 2007 to 31 December 2008

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	1	1	1	22	2	18		45
Cumbria Constabulary	1							1
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	13	1	1	23	2	8		48
Gwent Police	2			10	1			13
Lincolnshire Police				5	1			6
Merseyside Police	1	1		7	1			10
Metropolitan Police Service	27	2	15	134	22	77		277
North Wales Police	9	2	2	14	2	4		33
Northamptonshire Police	1					1		2
Northumbria Police	59	5	1	199	18	75		357
West Yorkshire Police	14		2	31	2	7		56
Totals	128	12	22	445	51	190	0	848

NB: Only the highest level of 'use' for each TASER deployment is recorded.

STU = Specially Trained Units

Use' as defined by ACPO: TASER Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2