

**Information Governance Unit  
Information Management Branch**

14 July 2009

Dear XXXXX,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/06/2009, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 17/06/2009, I note you seek access to the following information:

**Your Request**

- Question 1. How many Tasers does GMP possess?
- Question 2. How many of GMPs officers are authorised Taser officers?
- Question 3. How many times in the last 12 months have GMP officers deployed Tasers?
- Question 4. What length of training do officers undergo before they are authorised to possess Tasers on duty?
- Question 5. Do officers have to pass a written examination before they are authorised to possess tasers on duty?
- Question 6. Why did GMP Press Office refuse to disclose answers to the above on 16 June 2009 at 15.15hrs?

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held in part by Greater Manchester Police (GMP).

**Response**

*For information only;* Police officers are trained to use taser using minimum force and, if practicable, will go through set-lines of engagement before actually discharging the taser. An officer will issue a warning that they are carrying a taser and the voltage discharged if this does not discourage the subject. The officer may either 'Draw', 'Arch' or 'spark (Red dot)' the weapon to re-enforce the warning – prior to discharge if deemed necessary.

Further information on the use of tasers and training etc can be found at the following web link

Information Governance Unit, Information Management Branch, Police Headquarters,  
Chester House, Boyer Street, Manchester M16 0RE  
Tel: 0161 856 2529/2668, Fax: 0161 856 2535, Minicom: 0161 872 6633,  
Email: [freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk)

<http://www.westmercia.police.uk/images/mog/36'2005%20-%20Revised%20Taser%20Operational%20Guidance%20-%20attachment.pdf>

Question 1. 500 Tasers.

Question 2. 265. However, GMP plans to extend the use of taser, within the force and train further officers and dedicated firearms officers across all it's divisions in the foreseeable future. It is envisaged, once the training program is complete, GMP will have any number between (approximately 100-500 additionally trained officers).

Question 3. The requested information is as follows;

2008 – 29 authorised uses, of which 7 tasered, 3 drive-stun, 9 red dot, 1 arched, 2 drawn, 7 authorised to be taken to scene of incident but not deployed in any way.

2009 (Information held up to 5 May 2009) – 10 authorised uses, of which 3 tasered, 3 red dot, 1 authorised to be taken to scene of incident but not deployed in any way, 3 not stated.

Question 4. Officers undergo 4 days assessed training that is based on a 'pass or fail'.

Question 5. Yes, officers do need to pass a written examination.

Question 6. This question does not constitute a valid Freedom of Information request as per Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore refused.

However, to comply with Section 16 and Section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act (Providing Advice and Assistance & Code of Practice), we can clarify that in GMP, The Press Office do not respond to Freedom of Information requests.

The Information Access Unit deals with freedom of Information requests. Therefore, if the Press Office receives a FOIA request they would forward the same to the Information Unit or ask the requestor to forward the same.

#### Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact me, on telephone number 0161 856 2529 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Officer