

Date: 11th April 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014448/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014448/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

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I am submitting a Freedom of Information request to obtain data on children under 18 who have had a taser fired at them by police from 2019 to 2024.

Could you please categorise these statistics in a table format using the following requirements:

- *The amount of children had a taser fired at them in each individual year.*

Then categorised by:

- *The child's race and ethnicity.*
- *Their age, if there's not a specific age was the range between 11-17 or 0-10.*
- *The reason why the taser was fired, for example, serious or aggravated resistance, aggressive resistance or active resistance.*
- *Was the child found to have a weapon on them? If so, what type of weapon?*
- *Was the child injured by the taser being fired.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- We have provided the data for use of taser incidents occurring between 2019 and 2024 where the subject was under 18.
- In line with the Home Office guidance, each officer reports their own personal use of force. In cases where more than one officer used force on the same individual, there should be one record per officer. The records of use of force represent these individual officer submissions, therefore they do not equate to the number of incidents where force was used, nor do they represent the number of individuals against whom force was used.
- Person age information is the perceived age at the time of the incident and is recorded in ranges. The date of birth is held (if provided), however there are known data quality issues with this field therefore the perceived age range has been used as our preferred method.
- Prior to the introduction of the new Use of Force recording app in March 2023, only officer perceived ethnicity was recorded.

Year	Total
2019	9
2020	5
2021	5
2022	7
2023	5
2024	0

Due to low numbers returned per year, the breakdown has been merged together as by providing all this information as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By merging this data it can be provided in its entirety.

Age Range	Total
11 – 17	31

Subject's Perceived Ethnicity	Total
Black (or Black British)	6
White	24
Unknown	1

Subject's injured	Total
Yes	13
No	17
Unknown	1

Weapon	Total
Bladed weapon / object	5
Blunt weapon / object	1
Firearm	1
Pointed weapon / object	2
No/ No but indicated weapon may be present	22

Please note each incident has more than one attached reason for force.

Reason for Force	Total
Protect Self	26
Protect Another Officer	26
Prevent Offence	20
Effect Search	10
Secure Evidence	14
Effect Arrest	28
Prevent Escape	20
Prevent Harm	17
Protect Public	24
Protect Subject	19
Method of Entry	1