



Firearms and Protective Equipment
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TASER report 19mth 11/3/9 (7316)

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

This is the second 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 March 2009 (Table 1).**
- 2. TASER use by authorised firearms officers outside of a firearms authority from 20 July 2007 to 31 March 2009 (Table 2).**
- 3. TASER use by specially trained units from 1 September 2007 to 31 March 2009 (Table 3).**

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): Taser 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 25th June 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 - All TASER uses in England and Wales excluding the original 2003 pilot
- 22 April 2004 to 31 March 2009**

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	31	9	16	78	9	30		173
Bedfordshire Police	30	3	1	27	4	6		71
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	19	3	1	90	4	17		134
Cheshire Constabulary	15		6	21	1	4		47
City of London Police	1			4				5
Cleveland Police	35	1	1	62		8		107
Cumbria Constabulary	11	2	6	44	1	4	1	69
Derbyshire Constabulary	6			49	2	9		66
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	48	6	3	61	4	10		132
Dorset Police	32	7	5	30	1	7		82
Durham Constabulary	29	1		73	4	6		113
Dyfed-Powys Police	5			15	2	2		24
Essex Police	30	7	2	30	1	2		72
Gloucestershire Constabulary	26	1		39	2			68
Greater Manchester Police	25	8		22		1		56
Gwent Police	13		4	62	5	6		90
Hampshire Constabulary	14			10	2	2		28
Hertfordshire Constabulary	21	2	2	49	4	26		104
Humberside Police	36	2	12	116	8	10		184
Kent Police	4		2	19		9		34
Lancashire Constabulary	64	6	4	66	1	10		151
Leicestershire Constabulary	13	3	25	33	5	8		87
Lincolnshire Police	9	2	2	13	2	3		31
Merseyside Police	17	2	1	38	12	6		76
Metropolitan Police	280	52	21	224	27	93	3	700
Norfolk Constabulary	32	4	7	17	2	2		64
North Wales Police	44	6	5	87	10	12		164
North Yorkshire Police	17	4	6	48	4	8		87
Northamptonshire Police	8	1		8		3		20
Northumbria Police	119	12	4	391	44	133	1	704
Nottinghamshire Police	14		2	21		1		38
South Wales Police	22	4	4	41	3	1		75
South Yorkshire Police	10		1	12		1		24
Staffordshire Police	22	6	9	78	11	9	1	136
Suffolk Constabulary	13	1		18	1	7		40
Surrey Police	5	3	5	23	2	2		40
Sussex Police	19	1	1	54	2	5		82
Thames Valley Police	13	2		14	1			30
Warwickshire Police	1				1	1		3
West Mercia Constabulary	33	6	4	62	3	5		113
West Midlands Police	49	4	1	39				93
West Yorkshire Police	144	12	14	148	7	19	1	345
Wiltshire Constabulary	27	2	3	21	1			54
X Not Stated	1				1			2
Totals	1407	185	180	2357	194	488	7	4818

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 March 2009

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	20	5	13	37	5	7		87
Bedfordshire Police	4	3		7	1			15
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	9	3	1	58	1	12		84
Cheshire Constabulary	4		2	6		3		15
City of London Police	1			2				3
Cleveland Police	3		1	12		1		17
Cumbria Constabulary	7	2	5	34	1	2		51
Derbyshire Constabulary	5			17	2	3		27
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	12	4	1	23	1	1		42
Dorset Police	10	5	2	5				22
Durham Constabulary	1			2		2		5
Dyfed-Powys Police				6	1			7
Essex Police	21	6	2	21		1		51
Gloucestershire Constabulary	14	1		20	2			37
Greater Manchester Police	9	1		12				22
Gwent Police	3		3	24	2	5		37
Hampshire Constabulary				1	2			3
Hertfordshire Constabulary	4	1	2	24	2	15		48
Humberside Police	31	2	7	67	5	9		121
Kent Police	2		1	15		7		25
Lancashire Constabulary	37	5	4	39		9		94
Leicestershire Constabulary	9	1	20	27	5	8		70
Lincolnshire Police	2	2	1	4		3		12
Merseyside Police	4			10	2			16
Metropolitan Police Service	17	9	2	12		1		41
Norfolk Constabulary	17	3	7	12	2	2		43
North Wales Police	12	3	1	17	2	3		38
North Yorkshire Police	9	4	5	25	2	7		52
Northamptonshire Police	2	1		1		2		6
Northumbria Police	20	4	2	65	19	29		139
Nottinghamshire Police	8		1	19		1		29
South Wales Police	10	4	4	29	3	1		51
South Yorkshire Police	4		1	6				11
Staffordshire Police	14	6	6	25	3	6		60
Suffolk Constabulary	1			1		2		4
Surrey Police	4	1	4	12	1	1		23
Sussex Police	8		1	24	1	3		37
Thames Valley Police	5	2		7				14
Warwickshire Police								
West Mercia Constabulary	24	5	2	46	2	4		83
West Midlands Police	1			1				2
West Yorkshire Police	59	3	2	33		6		103
Wiltshire Constabulary	17	2	3	11	1			34
Totals	444	88	106	819	68	156	0	1681

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 March 2009

Force	Usage Details							Total Used
	Discharges	Drive-stuns	Arced	Red Dot	Aimed	Drawn	Not Stated	
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	1	1	1	24	3	21		51
Cumbria Constabulary	1							1
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	15	2	1	28	2	9		57
Gwent Police	3			11	2	1		17
Hertfordshire Constabulary				1	1	1		3
Lincolnshire Police				5	1			6
Merseyside Police	2	1		10	1			14
Metropolitan Police Service	36	2	17	169	22	85		331
North Wales Police	13	2	2	15	2	4		38
Northamptonshire Police	1			1		1		3
Northumbria Police	90	7	2	256	19	93		467
West Yorkshire Police	28	3	6	58	3	12		110
Totals	190	18	29	578	56	227	0	1098

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