

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2368
Date: 10 November 2021



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Per the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please supply the following information held within your records:

1. Please advise when Police Scotland started to deploy the use of Tasers?

Since the inception of Police Scotland, officers within the Armed Policing Unit has always deployed with Taser.

Additional officers equipped with Tasers, known as Specially Trained Officers (STOs), became operational on 1st June 2018.

2. How many officers within Police Scotland carry a Taser?

Please see the link below for the number of officers within the Armed Policing Unit who carry a taser.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/armed-policing-quarterly-reports>

As of the 20 October 2021, there are 601 Specially Trained Officers within Police Scotland

3. In what capacity or specific police unit would an officer within Police Scotland be expected to carry a taser?

A Specially Trained Officer (STO) is a non-firearms officer who will routinely deploy with a Taser X2 device. STOs are front line response officers in local policing.

All Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO) carry tasers, while on operational duties.

4. Year on Year since deployment of tasers please advise the number of instances these tasers were used against a member of the public?

2018-2019 – 258 uses
2019-2020 – 220 uses
2020-2021 – 347 uses
2021 to date – 207 uses