



Response Date:03/06/2025

2025/532 - Incapacitant sprays

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of incapacitant sprays for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)

o For the provision of the type of incapacitant sprays that received authorisation for deployment in each of these years.

For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of tasers for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (as recently as possible)

o For the provision of the type of taser that received authorisation for deployment in these years (e.g., X26, X2, 7)

For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for the deployment of baton rounds for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)

o For a breakdown of the types of baton rounds that received authorisation for deployment in these years.

For the provision of your constabulary/force/service's total number of authorisations for deployments of armed response units for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (as recently as possible)

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- o For a breakdown of the types of firearms authorised for deployment in these years.

This FOI request is being sent to all constabularies in England and Wales (and related jurisdictions and bodies). I have followed Association of Chief Police Officers guidelines for a request to be valid under FOI, in particular fulfilling the following criteria:

- It is made in writing by letter
- It clearly describes the information being sought;
- It contains the name of the applicant and contact details

This request is being made in accordance with public interest criteria and seeks to promote public understanding of the deployment of less lethal equipment, as well as foster accountability for their usage.

I understand that I should receive the requested information within 20 working days. Please acknowledge that you have received this request.

Clarification

I am writing on the subject of an FOI request that I sent to you on Sunday 11 May 2025. I would like to clarify certain points and make some modifications to my original request.

My new request is:

- * **For the total number of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025**
 - o **A breakdown of the circumstances of these deployments.**
 - o **A breakdown of the type of incapacitant spray/taser that was deployed.**
 - o **Further clarification: when I refer to "deployment", this includes a taser being drawn from its holster without being fired.**
- * **For the provision of the total number of authorisations for the deployment of attenuating energy projectiles/armed response units from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025**
 - o **A breakdown of the reasons for why the authorisation was given in each instance.**

I hope that this serves to clarify any confusion or lack of clarity regarding my initial request.

Please note: NWP adopted a new methodology of recording UoF from July 2022 - data for 2022 is therefore partial. To retrieve any further breakdown would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Irritant Spray Drawn	154	61	86	25
Irritant Spray Used	97	206	160	70
AEP Drawn Count	9	16	32	17
AEP Used Count	1	1	3	1
CED Drawn Count	314	414	472	210
CED Used Count	38	37	35	19
Firearm Aimed Count	20	20	12	8
Firearm Used Count		1		

Subject Initial Behaviour by Year by Count of Tactic Used

CED Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance	11	6	10	5
Aggressive resistance	13	10	9	6
Compliant			1	
Passive resistance	1	3		1
Serious/aggravated resistance	12	17	13	4
Unknown		1		
Verbal resistance/gestures	4	4	3	3

CED Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance	70	102	124	52
Aggressive resistance	54	74	71	33
Compliant	86	118	154	81
Passive resistance	42	66	75	28
Serious/aggravated resistance	20	21	23	2
Unknown	18	9	1	
Verbal resistance/gestures	43	60	61	22

Irritant Spray Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
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Irritant Spray Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
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Active resistance	33	52	43	20
Aggressive resistance	42	109	83	38
Compliant		2		2
Passive resistance	3	5	8	1
Serious/aggravated resistance	13	32	28	9
Unknown	10	5		
Verbal resistance/gestures		2	4	4

AEP Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance			1	1
Aggressive resistance		1		
Compliant			1	
Passive resistance	1			
Serious/aggravated resistance			1	
Unknown				
Verbal resistance/gestures				

Firearm Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance				
Aggressive resistance				
Compliant				
Passive resistance				
Serious/aggravated resistance		1		
Unknown				

Active resistance	54	14	23	9
Aggressive resistance	81	30	31	9
Compliant	2	1	9	3
Passive resistance	5	3	5	1
Serious/aggravated resistance	14	8	11	3
Unknown	2	3		
Verbal resistance/gestures	6	3	8	

AEP Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance	3	6	9	4
Aggressive resistance	2	4	5	2
Compliant	2	5	7	9
Passive resistance		2	5	3
Serious/aggravated resistance	1			
Unknown	1			
Verbal resistance/gestures			6	1

Firearm Aimed	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active resistance	3	1	2	1
Aggressive resistance		1		2
Compliant	16	13	9	6
Passive resistance	1	3		
Serious/aggravated resistance			1	
Unknown	1			

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Verbal resistance/gestures			
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Verbal resistance/gestures	4	3	2
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Reason for Force by Year by Count of Tactic Used

CED Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	26	29	27	14
Effect other search	2			
Effect search in custody				
Effect stop and search			4	
Other	13			1
Prevent escape	5	8	12	4
Prevent offence	11	14	8	5
Prevent self-harm	15	23	24	9
Protect other officers from violence	21	28	21	10
Protect public from violence	17	18	11	7
Protect self from violence	11	27	23	14
Protect subject from violence	11	11	8	4
Remove handcuffs			1	
Secure evidence	2	1	1	1
	3			

Irritant Spray Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	74	159	139	55

CED Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	188	279	351	137
Effect other search	36	22	22	2
Effect search in custody		2	6	1
Effect stop and search	13	62	73	26
Other	112	5	2	2
Prevent escape	42	127	200	79
Prevent offence	73	132	129	65
Prevent self-harm	130	253	258	93
Protect other officers from violence	149	259	296	140
Protect public from violence	96	130	169	64
Protect self from violence	121	255	296	162
Protect subject from violence	54	75	57	47
Remove handcuffs	2	1	4	2
Secure evidence	8	15	20	14
	32			

Irritant Spray Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	94	48	71	22

Effect other search	2	5	4	2
Effect search in custody		3	2	2
Effect stop and search	2	3	3	
Other	3	6	2	4
Prevent escape	31	68	70	24
Prevent offence	23	68	36	24
Prevent self-harm	59	124	80	27
Protect other officers from violence	46	127	99	53
Protect public from violence	19	36	35	15
Protect self from violence	42	103	88	50
Protect subject from violence	13	23	26	12
Remove handcuffs		1	1	2
Secure evidence	2	1	2	
	1	2		

AEP Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	1	1	1	1
Effect other search				
Effect search in custody				
Effect stop and search	1			
Other				
Prevent escape			1	
Prevent offence			1	

Effect other search	4	4	4	1
Effect search in custody		2	2	
Effect stop and search			3	2
Other	72	1	3	
Prevent escape	7	19	41	6
Prevent offence	29	10	17	12
Prevent self-harm	47	36	36	5
Protect other officers from violence	58	36	53	23
Protect public from violence	33	11	18	9
Protect self from violence	32	37	53	21
Protect subject from violence	28	4	5	1
Remove handcuffs	3		1	
Secure evidence		2	4	1
	38			

AEP Drawn	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	7	14	25	11
Effect other search	1	2		
Effect search in custody				
Effect stop and search	1	1	4	1
Other				
Prevent escape	3	1	10	3
Prevent offence	1	3	8	5

Prevent self-harm	1	1	2	
Protect other officers from violence		1	1	1
Protect public from violence				
Protect self from violence			2	
Protect subject from violence			1	
Remove handcuffs				
Secure evidence				

Firearm Used	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest		1		
Effect other search				
Effect search in custody				
Effect stop and search				
Other				
Prevent escape		1		
Prevent offence				
Prevent self-harm		1		
Protect other officers from violence		1		
Protect public from violence				
Protect self from violence		1		
Protect subject from violence				
Remove handcuffs				
Secure evidence				

Prevent self-harm	6	10	12	1
Protect other officers from violence	4	7	15	14
Protect public from violence	2	5	12	3
Protect self from violence	6	5	18	15
Protect subject from violence	1	2	4	7
Remove handcuffs				
Secure evidence			2	2

Firearm Aimed	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effect arrest	12	14	9	8
Effect other search	5	2	2	3
Effect search in custody				
Effect stop and search	1	5	3	
Other	13	2		
Prevent escape		11	8	2
Prevent offence	2	3	3	3
Prevent self-harm	8	10	7	3
Protect other officers from violence	9	15	9	7
Protect public from violence	9	13	6	6
Protect self from violence	5	14	7	5
Protect subject from violence	2	3	1	
Remove handcuffs		1		
Secure evidence	1	1	1	

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THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 02/06/2025