

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



10th January 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1116/24 USE OF FIREARMS ON OUT OF CONTROL DOGS

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 11th December 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1. I'd like information relating to the number of times an officer has used a firearm (i.e. shot) against an out of control dog.*
- 2. I'd also be interested in how many times a Taser has been used, however, records relating to a firearm are of more importance.*
- 3. In addition I'd like to know the breed and any other details about the dog and whether a human or animal had been injured by said dog and whether the incident and use of weapon was in public or private place.*

I'd be grateful to receive the figures for the last ten years, if possible, beginning with the most recent year (2024) broken down by month.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some of the information you seek, however, due to the lengthy period of time covered by your request and changes in recording practices over this period, not all of the information that is held is recorded in a way that it enables it to be identified and retrieved automatically. In particular, this applies to cases where a taser was used between 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2023. To ascertain if there were any occurrences between these dates, where it was necessary to use a taser on a dog, it would be necessary to manually review records relating to taser usage held within different Constabulary systems and I have estimated that the time required to review all relevant records will exceed the "appropriate limit".

The "appropriate limit" is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and the current limit for police forces is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



with a request for information, if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request will exceed the appropriate limit. In view of this, and in accordance with Section 17(5) of the Act, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Notwithstanding the above, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide you with advice and assistance, I can provide you with some of the information you have requested as this information was able to be retrieved before it was realised the appropriate limit would be exceeded.

Over the full period specified in your request, Constabulary records indicate there have been 2 occasions where it was necessary to shoot a dog with a conventional firearm.

The below table provides the requested information, where the relevant information is recorded.

Conventional Firearms Use on a Dog				
	Breed	Month/Year	Injury	Location
Occasion 1	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	July 2020	Injury to Persons	House Garden
Occasion 2	Not Specified	March 2022	Injury to Persons	Rear Yard of House

Between the periods 1st January 2014 and 28th February 2017 and 1st March 2023 to 11th December 2024, Constabulary records indicate there were a total of 3 occasions where it was necessary to discharge a Taser at a dog. (Records are unable to be retrieved within the appropriate limit for the period 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2023).

The below table provides the requested information.

Taser Use on a Dog				
	Breed	Month/Year	Injury	Location
Occasion 1	Alsatian	January 2016	Injury to Person	House Garden
Occasion 2	Staffordshire/Pit Bull Cross	May 2016	Injury to Person	Inside House
Occasion 3	Staffy	June 2016	Injury to Dog and Person	House Garden

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

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



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

