

Request reference: 5540_14

The tables below show the number of times a taser has been deployed. We have taken 'deployed' to mean drawn, aimed, red dotted, arched, fired, drive stunned or angle drive stunned. Each time a taser has been deployed, a form is submitted for recording and given a log number. Each log number should relate to a separate incident. Therefore the 'reported taser uses' shows the number of times a report has been submitted due to a taser deployment.

However, the number of forms does not necessarily indicate that there were that number of separate incidents. Therefore, I have manually gone through the data and removed the duplicate forms to provide you with a number of 'separate incidents.'

Please note that our 2008 data is recorded differently to our recent data. We are unable to tell which were separate incidents, so we have provided you with the number of reports issued.

The data for calendar year 2014 runs from 01/01/2014 to 30/09/2014.

1. How many times were tasers deployed on under 18s in 2008, 2013, and 2014?

	2008	2013	2014
Reported taser uses	0	54	36
Separate incidents	-	42	33

2. What proportion of total taser deployment was on under 18s in 2008, 2013 and 2014?

The data provided below are the total number of taser deployments for all ages in the years specified.

	2008	2013	2014
Reported taser uses	20	835	639
Separate incidents	-	569	475

3. How many of those under 18s on who tasers were deployed in 2008, 2013 and 2014 were:

Age	2008	2013	2014
Under 10	-	-	-
10	-	-	-
11	-	-	-
12	-	-	-
13	-	-	1
14	-	2	6
15	-	10	6
16	-	20	9
17	-	10	11
Total	0	42	33

4. In relation to the use of tasers deployed on under 18s in 2008, 2013 and 2014 – in what number and/or proportion was the taser:

Category	2008	2013	2014
Drawn	-	8	4
Aimed	-	-	5
Red-dot	-	27	17
Arched	-	1	1
Fired	-	6	6
Drive-stun	-	-	-
Angled drive stun	-	-	-
Total	0	42	33

PLEASE NOTE:

Data on ages is calculated from date of birth. While researching this request, it came to our attention that the data we currently hold on ages of those who were subject to Stop and Search is incorrect. However, in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have disclosed the recorded data despite its inaccuracies. Whilst researching the reasons for these inaccuracies we have found the following:

1. No date of birth has been recorded. When there is no date of birth provided, it is sometimes recorded as '0'.
2. The date of birth has been recorded incorrectly by our scanning and interpreting equipment. If the handwriting is not easily distinguishable, then errors can occur. For example, a '6' can be interpreted as a '0'.
3. Human error can cause inaccuracies in data.

In order to raise awareness of the impact that human error and indistinguishable handwriting has on our recording systems, each front line officer has completed a training package on 'stop and search'. The West Midlands Police are also investing in a new IT based recording system in order eradicate data inaccuracies caused by incorrect scanning.

The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when interpreting those data.

Use of stop and search of children and young people under 18

1. The total number of children and young people under 18 who were stopped and searched in your jurisdiction in 2008/09, 2012/13 and 2013/14. Of this total, please provide a breakdown:

a. By age

Age	2008/09	2012/13	2013/14
0 - 10	38	33	94
10 - 12	174	155	109
13 - 15	2269	2425	1637
16 - 17	3701	4391	2858
Total	6182	7004	4698

b. By gender*

Gender	2008/09	2012/13	2013/14
Female	345	0	3
Male	5692	7	0
Blank	145	6997	4695
Total	6182	7004	4698

*Please note that gender is no longer recorded.

c. By ethnicity

Self Classification Description	2008/09	2012/13	2013/14
White - British	2678	3520	2025
White - Irish	12	31	16
White - Other	42	123	63
Mixed - White + Black Caribbean	305	263	165
Mixed - White + Black African	24	28	23
Mixed - White + Asian	28	18	18
Mixed - Other	47	48	25
Asian - Indian	254	251	132
Asian - Pakistani	1146	1025	810
Asian - Bangladeshi	181	86	61
Asian - Other	89	164	104
Black - Caribbean	583	592	315
Black - African	135	178	95
Black - Other	180	216	152
Other - Chinese	11	21	5
Other - Any other	38	49	38
Not stated	429	343	198
Unknown	0	48	34
Blank	0	0	419
Total	6182	7004	4698