



# Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2020/10951  
RFI:267/20

Date: 14 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: RESTRAINT TECHNIQUES.**

We refer to your email dated 29 September 2020 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

**“1. a) Please provide the total number of times restraint techniques were used by officers in your force – i.e. the number of restraints reported by individual officers in use of force forms – for each of the past two years April 2018 to March 2019 and April 2019 to March 2020.**

**b) For each year, please provide totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known**

**2. a) Please provide the total number of Conducted Energy Device (CED, ie TASER) incidents recorded in your force over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020)**

**b) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which CEDs were discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known**

**c) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which CEDs were not discharged, along with the totals for each category of ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known**

**3. a) Please provide the total number times irritant spray was used in your force over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020)**

**b) For each year please provide the total number of incidents recorded in which irritant spray was discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known**

**c) For each year please provide the total number of incidents in which irritant spray was not discharged, along with the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known**

**4. a) Please detail the number of times officers have attended incidents over the past two years (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019 and April 2019 – Mar 2020) where the subject has been suffering from a confirmed or suspected ABD (acute behavioural disturbance)**

**b) Please provide the number of times these incidents resulted in force such as restraint techniques, CED, irritant spray being, firearm or other force used**

**c) For each category – i.e. no force used, restraint, CED, irritant spray, firearm, other – please provide the totals for each ethnicity of the subject as perceived and provided by officers in use of force forms - i.e. the total number of white, black, Asian, or other subjects, as well as the total number not recorded/not known”**

after your clarification for Question 1:

**“To clarify, yes, for “restraint techniques” I’d like to ask for data on handcuffs, physical restraint and limb/torso restraint. If it’s possible for the data to be broken down under these categories that would be really helpful too.”**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

Question 1 a) and b)	Apr 18 – Mar 19	Apr 19 - Mar 20
Total number of restraint incidents	<b>Total 116</b>	<b>Total 130</b>
White	Handcuff <b>68</b> Physical <b>30</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>	Handcuff <b>81</b> Physical <b>23</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>
Black	Handcuff <b>11</b> Physical <b>0</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>	Handcuff <b>11</b> Physical <b>2</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>
Asian	Handcuff <b>1</b> Physical <b>0</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>	Handcuff <b>6</b> Physical <b>0</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>
Other	Handcuff <b>1</b> Physical <b>0</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>	Handcuff <b>0</b> Physical <b>0</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>
Not recorded/not known	Handcuff <b>4</b> Physical <b>1</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>	Handcuff <b>4</b> Physical <b>3</b> Limb/torso <b>0</b>

Question 2 a) b)	April 2018 – March 2019	April 2019 - March 2020
Total number of CED incidents - Discharged	0	2
White	0	1
Black	0	1
Asian	0	0
Other	0	0
Not recorded/not known	0	0

c)	April 2018 – March 2019	April 2019 - March 2020
Total number of CED incidents - Not Discharged	10	13
White	10	13
Black	0	0
Asian	0	0
Other	0	0
Not recorded/not known	0	0

<b>Question 3 a) b)</b>	<b>April 2018 – March 2019</b>	<b>April 2019 - March 2020</b>
<b>Total number of irritant spray incidents - Discharged</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Not recorded/not known</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>c)</b>	<b>April 2018 – March 2019</b>	<b>April 2019 - March 2020</b>
<b>Total number of irritant spray incidents - Not Discharged</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Not recorded/not known</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Question 4 a) b) and c) – this information is not recorded on our reporting systems.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House,

Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

**MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office**