

## FAQs

### **When was Taser introduced?**

Taser was introduced to non-firearms officers within Humberside police in 2009. Prior to this nationally there had been extensive testing of the weapon by the government. The weapon had been initially introduced to five trial forces prior its authorisation to firearms officers. In 2007 ten forces tested the use of Taser by specially trained officers who weren't firearms trained. This 12 months length was conducted by Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire.

### **When can officers use Taser?**

Officers within Humberside police can deploy and use Taser as one of many tactical options. This only after they have used the National Decision Model (NDM) to inform their decision. Taser is an individual use of force and as such each officer has to justify its use. If Taser is considered as a tactical option for a pre-planned incident, such as an arrest attempt of a violent offender its actual deployment on the incident has to be authorised by a NDM trained supervisor. However the actual use of the Taser is still the decision of the individual officer.

### **Is every officer in Humberside given a Taser?**

Currently about 30-40% of Operational frontline officers in Humberside are trained to carry Taser (a similar figure to our neighbouring forces). The decision on the number of Taser trained officers lies with chief officers and is based on a risk assessment for the force.

### **Why does Humberside have Taser?**

Humberside Police has Taser as a tactical option which allows officers to deal with potentially violent incidents from safe distance. It allows for a less-lethal option where otherwise more significant or even a conventional firearm may have to be used. In most circumstances Taser actually prevents any force being used, either by the officers, or on them. In most cases reduces the injuries to officers, subjects and members of the public.

### **What happens to the person the Taser is used on?**

In most cases the subject the Taser is used on has a loss of some muscle control resulting in them freezing to the spot or falling to the floor. The recovery from a Taser discharge in most cases is almost instantaneous, however all persons subjected to a Taser discharge will be seen by a doctor.

### **Are medical issues taken into account?**

Officers are trained to consider medical and vulnerability issues, however these might not always be recognisable prior to Taser being deployed. All Taser officers are trained to follow Taser aftercare procedures which includes all subjects who have been Tasered seeing a doctor. If the officer suspects any complications they are taken to hospital. Taser has been designed so that emits extremely low amps, to minimise injury potential. It has been rigorously testing both nationally and internationally prior to its authorisation in the UK.

## **How do I make a complaint about Taser?**

Humberside Police aims to ensure that all of its officers act in accordance with the code of ethics. They should only use force when it is necessary and only use the amount of force that is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances. However we must always find ways to improve, we need to listen and respond to the views of the public of the Humberside policing area. Where you believe there is a need to complain about a use of Taser you can make a complaint in the following ways:

- Visiting your local police station.
- By phone using the 101 number.
- Via e-mail.
- Direct to Professional Standards
- Via letter.
- Via Fax.
- Via the Humberside Police Website.
- Direct to Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)
- Direct to Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner.