National Police Chiefs' Council

National Police
Freedom of Information
and Data Protection Unit

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922
Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

05/08/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 3092/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding the vetting and medical Screening of officers carrying TASER, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Are Police officers that are trained to be Specially Trained Officers who are deployed with TASER Devices vetted and medically screened to the same level as Authorised Firearms Officers and Police Armourers.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC can confirm that as per the College of Policing APP, Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) are expected to obtain and maintain at least MV clearance as part of their job role.

There are no additional vetting levels for Taser officers over and above that of a police officer which is recruit vetting (RV), unless they are in a specifically in a role that demands increased vetting.

In relation to medical vetting, the NPCC can confirm that for both Taser and AFOs the eyesight test is the same but other medical standards differ.

Information regarding the selection, training and authorisation of Authorised Firearms Officers and specially Training Officers is publicly available via the College of Police APP website.

Authorised firearms officer | College of Policing

Armed policing | College of Policing

Conducted energy devices (Taser) | College of Policing

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

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www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

50 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BL

info@npcc.police.uk
www.npcc.police.uk

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Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

(1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

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