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Our Ref: 26-0265
Your Ref: 21889381
Telephone: 8207 5555



Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

“1. The number of QLD(sic) police incidents tasers were used in for the past two financial years mutually exclusively; 2. A breakdown of whether they were involved in a. draw and cover, b. discharging barbs (firing a taser), c. used in drive stun mode, d. accidentally discharged; 3. Of those in point two, I’m seeking the related incident and use of force reports and AV material (include taser camera footage, helmet camera footage in relation to points b (firing of a taser). Please limit searches to just those that occurred in the past financial year (from July 1 2024 onwards) in SA, which resulted in an arrest/apprehension, that was caught on camera. If there are more than 20 incidents whereby tasers were fired, please limit to the first 20 incident/event reports where this has occurred with searches to be undertaken chronologically.”

On 27 August 2024 you clarified your request as follows:

1. *“The number of SA police incidents tasers were used in for the past two financial years (displayed for each year)*
2. *A breakdown of whether they were involved in*
 - a. *draw and cover,*
 - b. *discharging barbs (firing a taser),*
 - c. *used in drive stun mode,*
 - d. *accidentally discharged;*
3. *A list of taser incidents (firing of a taser) within the FY 24/25 (max 20 of the most recent) which resulted in an arrest/apprehension and were captured on video recording. For these please provide the occurrence report, use of force form, Tascam and BWV.”*

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In relation to parts 1 and 2 of your request:

“1. The number of SA police incidents tasers were used in for the past two financial years (displayed for each year)

2. A breakdown of whether they were involved in

- a. draw and cover,*
- b. discharging barbs (firing a taser),*
- c. used in drive stun mode,*
- d. accidentally discharged;”*

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has located data that falls within the scope of your request. A determination has been made to **release this data in full**.

Electronic Control Device Use	2023/24	2024/25
Accidental Discharge	1	0
Cat C – Displayed only and not used	112	87
Cat B – Laser painted and not deployed	224	182
Cat A – Deployed	109	95
Total	446	364
Drive stun	16	10

Please Note:

- Taser is a brand name of an Electronic Control Device (ECD), SAPOL uses the term ECD in its documents and data.
- Multiple ECDs can be deployed at one incident. Use of force data is reported by the number of times force was used not the number of incidents force was used at.
- ‘Deployed’ includes discharge, discharge/arc, discharge/drive stun, discharge/laser and a combination of any or all of these.
- Category A incidents were not broken down on SAPOL reporting systems until approximately February 2024. For the purpose of presenting the data, drive stuns have been displayed separately, however, these figures have already been included within the Cat A figures.

In relation to part 3 of your request:

“3. A list of taser incidents (firing of a taser) within the FY 24/25 (max 20 of the most recent) which resulted in an arrest/apprehension and were captured on video recording. For these please provide the occurrence report, use of force form, Tasercam and BWV.”

SAPOL has located documents that fall within the scope of your request. The documents are numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23 of the FOI Act.

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No.	Document Description	Status	Act
1	Occurrence Report SAP24000171364	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
2	PD355 Re U2025-0003	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
3	BWV U2025-0003	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
4	T-CAM U2025-0003	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
5	Occurrence Report SAP2400223425	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
6	PD355 Re U2025-0117	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
7	BWV U2025-0117	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
8	T-CAM U2025-0117	Full Release	
9	Occurrence Report SAP2500001436	Partial Release	Clause 6(1), 4(2)(a)(iii) & 4(2)(b)
10	PD355 Re U2025-0407	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
11	BWV U2025-0407	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
12	T-CAM U2025-0407	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
13	Occurrence Report SAP2500025361	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
14	PD355 Re U2025-0460	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
15	BWV U2025-0460	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
16	T-CAM U2025-0460	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
17	Occurrence Report SAP2500026712	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
18	PD355 Re U2025-0463	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
19	BWV U2025-0463	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
20	T-CAM U2025-0463	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
21	Occurrence Report SAP250026906	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
22	PD355 Re U2025-0465	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
23	BWV U2025-0465	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
24	T-CAM U2025-0465	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
25	Occurrence Report SAP2500001436	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
26	PD355 Re U2025-0714	Refused	Clause 16(a)&(b)
27	BWV U2025-0714	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)
28	T-CAM U2025-0714	Partial Release	Clause 6(1)

CLAUSES FOR REFUSAL

Clause 4(2)(a)(iii) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law (including any revenue law).”

Clause 4(2)(b) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

Clause 16(a)(i) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the effectiveness of any method or procedure for

the 16(1)(b) conduct of tests, examinations or audits by an agency; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

Clause 16(a)(iii) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to have a substantial adverse effect on the management or assessment by an agency of the agency's personnel; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

Clause 16(a)(iv) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to have a substantial adverse effect on the effective performance by an agency of the agency's functions; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

Clause 16(b) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

Clause 4 2(a)(iii) and 4(2)(b)

The redacted text identifies police methodology which would otherwise not be publicly known. Release of this information has the potential to prejudice the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law. The information identifies investigative methodology which upon release could assist endeavours to evade police procedures or practices and thereby reduce the ability for SAPOL to obtain evidence.

Having decided that parts of the document are considered exempt under Clause 4(2)(a)(iii), I must also be satisfied that access to that information would be contrary to the public interest as specified under Clause 4(2)(b). Whilst I am satisfied that access to the document would promote the objects of the FOI Act and be of interest to the community, the document itself is not relative to the applicant's own personal information and there would be a strong public interest in ensuring that SAPOL has the ability to obtain evidence and prevent, detect and investigate contraventions of laws in a manner which is not compromised or prejudiced in any way. Upon balancing the public interest considerations, I have concluded that the ability for SAPOL to conduct its operations with regards to contraventions of laws without compromise or prejudice, far outweighs the public's interest in the information and therefore consider it exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act.

Clause 6(1)

A portion of the redacted text is the personal affairs of a third parties. The information relates to details such as names, addresses, date of births, telephone numbers, occupation, physical appearance and other personal information, I am of the view that disclosure of such information is unreasonable given the need to protect the person's privacy and personal information.

Clause 16(a)(i), (iii), (iv) & 16(b)

These documents exist to enable SAPOL to examine incidents involving the use of force, specifically in these cases the use of ECDs. The disclosure of these documents would reasonably be expected to prejudice the effectiveness of any method of collecting and analysing information used to ensure correct process is being utilised, identify any errors, training needs or requirements for changes to policy or legislation. To release these documents would have a substantial adverse effect on the effectiveness of SAPOL's ability to perform an integral part of the agency's functions.

A public interest test has been applied in accordance with clause 16(b) balancing the reasons for and against the release of this material. In this case the information relates to the effectiveness of a method or procedure undertaken by SAPOL within their investigation and analysis process. While there should be a degree of transparency in government functions, some methods that police use to analyse their own methodology, identify disciplinary requirements, training needs or policy change to enable the most effective management of personal or public safety require a degree of confidentiality. If such information was made available to everyone the openness in the recording of information by the agencies staff could be diluted and therefore lose its effectiveness. With the above considerations in mind, I have formed the view that disclosure of such information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and any documents or information to which you are given access will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log.

A copy of PC045 can be found at:

https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Logs.pdf.

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 5 December 2025.

Yours sincerely



Acting Senior Sergeant Christian Ainley
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

30 October 2025