

# British Transport Police use of taser statistics, 2010 to 2014

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### 1. Summary

The figures presented in this report detail the number of uses of taser. The use of taser with the most physical impact is 'fired' and can result in incapacitation. For the purposes of the police's statistical reporting this is known as the 'highest use' of a taser. When a taser is 'drawn' but not discharged this is known as the 'lowest use'. The uses 'red dot', 'arcing', 'aimed' and 'drawn' are known as 'non-discharges' as the taser does not make contact with the subject.

The figures in this report show the number of taser 'uses' as opposed to the number of taser 'incidents'. This is designed to ensure full transparency on taser deployment as more than one taser may be used at an incident. Every time a taser is used in some capacity (fired, angle-drive stun, drive stun, red dot, arced, aimed or drawn) a record of its 'highest use' is made by the police officer and a short form is completed.

### 2. Background and definitions

Taser is a pistol-like conductive energy device that can incapacitate an individual through the use of an electrical current. It is less lethal than a conventional firearm and provides a valuable tactical option for the police when faced with violence or threats of violence of such severity that force is needed to protect the public, themselves or the individual.

The data provided by British Transport Police on taser use provides information as to operational effectiveness of taser, and makes transparent the levels and types of usage. The data is also analysed for any medical implications.

The table below sets out the definitions for the different types of taser uses.

<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Type of use</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Highest use	Fired	The taser is fired with a live cartridge installed. When the trigger is pulled, the probes are fired towards the subject with the intention of completing an electrical circuit and delivering an incapacitating effect.
	Angled Drive Stun	The officer fires the weapon with a live cartridge installed. One or both probes may attach to the subject. The officer then holds the taser against the subject's body in a different area to the probe(s), in order to complete the electrical circuit and deliver an incapacitating effect.
	Drive stun	The taser is held against the subject's body and the trigger is pulled with no probes being fired. Contact with the subject completes the electrical circuit which causes pain but does not deliver an incapacitating effect.
Non-discharges	Red dot	The weapon is not fired. Instead, the taser is deliberately aimed and then partially activated so that a laser red dot is placed onto the subject.
	Arcing	Sparking of the taser without aiming it or firing it.
	Aimed	Deliberate aiming of the taser at a targeted subject.
Lowest use	Drawn	Drawing of taser in circumstances where any person could reasonably perceive the action to be a use of force.

### 3. Overall taser use 2010 to 2013

<b>Deployment method</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Drawn	33	17	25	44
Aimed	9	3	4	15
Red dot	5	12	20	15
Arced	0	0	1	1
Fired	2	0	0	3
Drive Stun	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>87</b>