

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Right to Information Services

GPO Box 308, Hobart, Tas. 7001
Phone: (03) 61732257 | Fax: (03) 62302601
Email: rti@dpfem.tas.gov.au
Web: www.dpfem.tas.gov.au



Our ref: RTI 67/19
TRIM ref: A19/69322
Your ref:
Enquiries: (03) 61732453

2 April 2019

Mario Christodoulou
GPO Box 9994
ULTIMO SYDNEY NSW 2100

Dear Mr Christodoulou,

APPLICATION FOR ASSESSED DISCLOSURE - RTI 67/19

I am writing in response to your application for assessed disclosure, dated 14 March 2019, where you seek information in relation to 'Use of Force' reports recorded by Tasmania Police. The information you seek specifically relates to:

- *Statistics on the use of force as recorded in electronic form in Tasmania Police's systems;*
- *Information in an aggregated format (such as comma delimited format or a Microsoft Excel dataset) for a period of five years; and*
- *Any data which may accompany the information including (but not limited to) the LAC, location, circumstances, attending officer, time, type of offence etc.*

As per our conversation of 1 April 2019, and subsequent email of the same date, you agreed to refine the scope of your application to:

- *Include only those reports which were made after the new system came into effect in 2016; and*
- *To have the names of the attending officers removed.*

In assessing the information for disclosure, I am exercising powers delegated to me by the Principal Officer of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) under Section 21 and 24 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Tas) (the Act).

Enquiries and searches of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) information systems has located information relevant to your request.

Disclosure

I disclose the below tables with the information you seek.

Source for all data is the DPFEM IAPRO System, 27/03/2019

Use of Force Incidents Reported - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Reporting District	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
Northern District	87	92	48
Southern District	199	206	90
Western District	82	113	47
Education and Training	0	2	0
Ops Support District	2	3	3
Special Response & CTU	1	1	1
Unknown District	1	0	0
Total Incidents	372	417	189

Use of Force Incidents Reported - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Time Occurred	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
0:00 to 3:59	76	78	38
4:00 to 7:59	27	27	12
8:00 to 11:59	46	44	21
12:00 to 15:59	62	66	24
16:00 to 19:59	65	88	41
20:00 to 23:59	94	109	49
Unknown	2	5	4
Total Incidents	372	417	189

Use of Force Incidents Reported - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Service Type (Circumstances)	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
Arrest	247	294	126
BAS test	5	3	4
Charging Process	6	4	2
Citizen approach police	1	3	0
Citizen complaint	7	13	3
During A Search	13	9	6
Family Violence Incident	1	3	6
Holding Area	2	6	0
In Transit	1	8	1
Keep the peace	11	9	0
Mental Health Assistance	40	36	24
Not Applicable	9	6	3
Police Enquiry	12	4	3
Prosecution	0	1	0
Remand (Non Police)	0	0	2
Remand (Police)	7	3	2
Siege	2	1	2
Traffic Crash	1	2	0
Traffic Intercept	4	8	3
Unknown	3	4	2
Total	372	417	189

Uses of Force Reported - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Type of Force	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
Baton	16	30	11
Firearm	48	51	28
OC Spray	158	182	68
SOG	3	2	1
Taser	2	0	0
Unarmed Tactics	82	89	45
Total Uses of Force	309	354	153

UOF Resistances Reported - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Type of Resistance	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
Attempted Escape	57	99	28
Other - detail in summary	99	166	89
Passive Resistance	43	79	38
Search Resistance	22	28	10
Self-Harm	13	25	10
Verbal Aggression	153	208	96
Unknown	1	0	0
Use of Body/Part of Body	446	400	217
Use of Implement/Weapon	31	48	30
Total Resistances	865	1,053	518

UOF Person Targets - Jul 2016 to Dec 2018			
Whether Injured	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 31 Dec)
Yes	214	254	105
No	92	111	71
Not Specified	108	110	44
Total Person Targets	414	475	220

Please note that a single incident may require more than one type of 'use of force' to resolve that incident effectively.

Tasmania Police, which forms part of DPFEM, is the custodian of the information you seek and therefore is required to comply with the Act and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (Tas).

Right of Review

You have the right under Section 43 of the Act to apply for a review of this assessment. To apply for a review you must write to the Secretary of DPFEM within 20 working days of receiving this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lee Taylor
Sergeant No. 1801
Right to Information Delegate