

2 February 2015

Liam Stoneley
fyi-request-2377-e520121d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Liam

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your e mail dated 8th of January 2015 in which you requested Taser guidelines, manual or chapter as it relates to the procedure an officer needs to go through in order to wear the Taser during their shift; and if they can wear it routinely or only in specific situations; and what those situations are and who determines the need or gives permission for the officer to wear the Taser.

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982. I have included below excerpts from the current Police Instructions for Taser that relate to the requested information.

“Who can carry a TASER operationally?

A TASER may only be carried operationally by constables and who hold a current:

- *NZ Police First Aid certification*
- *NZ Police TASER operators or instructors certification*
- *PITT (SSTT) certification.”*

“Assess the situation you are in

*You must **only** carry a TASER on occasions where your perceived cumulative assessment of a situation is that it is necessary, because it is possible or likely that you (and your colleagues) may encounter a situation in or beyond the assaultive range as specified by the Tactical Options Framework.*

In particular, consider:

- *the type of incident you are attending*
- *the location*
- *the time of day*
- *any other relevant information*
- *your own practical experience to determine whether a situation that is currently sitting below the assaultive range of the Tactical Options Framework, has the potential to escalate into the assaultive range or higher, making it desirable for you to carry a TASER.”*

“Not to be worn routinely

A TASER must not be worn or displayed as a matter of course during routine duties. They must remain secured in the supplied locked container, within the patrol vehicle or other such location accessible to the operator.

In circumstances where the nature of the duties precludes practical and timely accessibility to TASER and the operating environment is such it can be reasonably anticipated that they may encounter situations within and beyond the assaultive range as specified in the Tactical Options Framework, supervisors can authorise carriage of TASER for specified duty or periods of time.”

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request you have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsmen and seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely



Barry Taylor
Superintendent, National Manager Response and Operations
New Zealand Police