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30th January 2018

Our Ref: FOI2017/00851

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2017/00851**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 6th October. I note you seek access to the following information:

**The request is specific to your police force and regards the issue of the use of portable tyre deflation devices/spike strips – commonly known as ‘stingers’ – in the UK.**

1. How many stingers does your police force hold?
2. How much does each stinger cost your force? If you have different types, please detail the cost of each.
3. Do the stingers require periodic replacement? If so, how often, and under what criteria - IE age of device or number of deployments?
4. How many times were stingers deployed by your officers in the last five years? Please give a year-by-year breakdown from 2012-present.
5. Of these deployments, how many were successful – IE suspects stopped safely and taken into custody?
6. Have any road traffic collisions resulting in death or injury, or damage to property (not including damage to suspects' vehicles' tyres), occurred as a result of stinger deployment? If so, please provide an annual breakdown of injuries, deaths and damage to property for the last five years (2012-present)

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

**Response**

**Q1** – Hertfordshire Constabulary do not have a central record of this information therefore we are unable to provide.

**Q2** - RPU have 25ft Stingers @ £857 Per unit. Local officers have the 15ft stingers @ £535 per unit – they are supplied by SPANSET.

**Q3** - When the Stinger is damaged and beyond repair. Spikes are replaced after deployment using spares within the case.

**Q4** – Please see the below table detailing the information you have provided.

2014		2015		2016	
VS	AM	VS	AM	VS	AM
2	6	6	9	6	10

VS = Vehicles stung AM = Arrests made

**Q5** – Please see above arrests made.

**Q6** – 1 recorded injury.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson  
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.