

Attitudes Towards Tasers

- Fieldwork dates: 11-15th November
- All figures in percentages
- Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004
- Data has been weighted (by age, region, working status, social grade and ethnicity within gender) to the known population profile
- Interviews conducted online
- Numbers may not always add up to 100% due to computer rounding or multiple answers

Q1. On balance, which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel about Police in England and Wales?

	%
I would speak positively of the police without being asked (2)	11
I would speak positively of the police if I am asked (1)	39
I have no views one way or another (0)	33
I would speak negatively about the police if I am asked (-1)	11
I would speak negatively about the police without being asked (-2)	3
Don't know	3
NET: All speak positively	49
NET: All speak negatively	14
Mean	0.45

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q2. To what extent are you aware or not of what a Taser is?

	%
Yes – fully aware of what a Taser is	66
Yes – aware of what a Taser is but not in detail	31
No – not aware of what a Taser is	2
Don't know	1
NET: All aware	97

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q3. How confident, if at all, are you that you would recognise if a Police Officer was carrying a Taser?

	%
Very confident (4)	13
Fairly confident (3)	34
Not very confident (2)	34
Not at all confident (1)	13
Don't know	6
NET: All very/fairly confident	47
NET: All not very/at all confident	47
Mean	2.49

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q5. To what extent would you be more or less likely to approach a Police officer for assistance such as asking for directions in each of the following circumstances?

	If the Police Officer was carrying a Taser	If the Police Officer was carrying a Handgun
A lot more likely (2)	2	2
A little more likely (1)	3	3
Makes no difference (0)	75	60
A little less likely (-1)	12	18
A lot less likely (-2)	5	16
Don't know	2	2
NET: All more likely	6	5
NET: All less likely	17	34
Mean	- 0.14	- 0.44

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q8. To what extent do you feel it is acceptable or unacceptable, for a frontline police officer to carry each of the following when going out on patrol?

	Incapacitant spray	Baton	Taser	Handgun/pistol	Body Worn Video
Completely acceptable (2)	45	52	38	19	70
Fairly acceptable (1)	30	28	33	24	18
Neither acceptable nor unacceptable (0)	13	12	15	19	7
Fairly unacceptable (-1)	7	5	9	18	2
Completely unacceptable (-2)	3	2	3	16	1
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2
NET: All acceptable	75	80	71	43	89
NET: All unacceptable	10	6	12	35	3
Mean	1.10	1.26	0.97	0.11	1.57

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q6. To what extent do you think that Police forces should or should not be allowed to train and equip officers with Tasers in the following circumstances?

	If the Tasers were to be only issued to Police officers with firearms experience	If the use of the Taser were automatically recorded by a camera mounted on the Police officer's uniform	If the Tasers were to be issued to Police officers working alone	If the Tasers were to be issued to Police officers working in isolated locations, such as rural villages
Definitely should (2)	34	52	39	31
Probably should (1)	45	38	40	40
Probably should not (-1)	10	5	11	15
Definitely should not (-2)	3	1	4	4
Don't know	9	5	7	10
NET: Probably should	78	89	79	71
NET: Probably should not	13	6	14	19
Mean	1.05	1.42	1.08	0.87

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that all Police Officers should be given the option of being equipped with a Taser?

	%
Strongly agree (2)	25
Tend to agree (1)	35
Neither agree nor disagree (0)	19
Tend to disagree (-1)	11
Strongly disagree (-2)	6
Don't know	3
NET: All agree	60
NET: All disagree	17
Mean	0.64

Base: All Adults aged 16-75 in England and Wales, n = 2,004