

Conductive Energy Device

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Policy Statement

Summary

This West Yorkshire Police policy procedure references both national and regional best practice and:

- Conforms to the APP for Armed Policing. It is not designed or intended to change the principles and guidance given in that document; and
- Provides a clear framework for West Yorkshire Police's response to incidents requiring the issue, deployment and use of Conductive Energy Devices (CED).
- The CED is use in West Yorkshire Police is Taser, but the policy can be adapted in principle if other brands of CEDs are purchased in the future.

Nothing in this policy procedure overrides the fundamental duty of police officers to protect life in accordance with the law and the Human Rights Act 1998.

All other deployments (within a firearms authority) will also conform to the other areas of the APP for Armed Policing.

The aims of this policy procedure are to explain:

- How officers will be trained and authorised to use taser;
 - When and when not to use the device;
 - The responsibilities of officers and single points of contact;
 - How and when equipment will be issued and deployed;
 - When to remove barbs from detainees and aftercare;
 - What to do when recovering evidence;
 - Post incident welfare support and investigations; and
 - What to do if the equipment is faulty or damaged.
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Scope

This policy procedure applies to all police officers, specifically those who have been selected and trained to use tasers and or command incidents.

Principles

Purpose

- Use of the taser is one of a number of tactical options available to an officer who is faced with violence or the threat of violence. Its purpose is to temporarily incapacitate an individual in order to gain control and neutralise the threat that they pose.
- It is **not** to be used to inflict severe pain or suffering on another in the performance or purported performance of official duties (Criminal Justice Act 1988, s.134), article 3 Human Rights Act 1998 (prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

Definition of Use

- The term ‘use of the taser’ will include any of the following actions carried out in an operational setting (actions 1-3 are non-contact uses, actions 4 and 5 are contact uses):
 1. drawing a taser in circumstances where any person perceives the action as a use of force;
 2. arcing the taser;
 3. aiming the taser or placing the laser sight red dot onto a subject;
 4. firing a taser so that the barbs are discharged at a subject or animal; or
 5. applying and discharging a taser in ‘drive stun’ or ‘angled drive stun’ mode to a subject.

Taser Officers Legal Authority

- Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) are classified as ‘prohibited weapons’ by virtue of section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968.
- Police officers while acting in their capacity as such, are exempt from the requirements of the legislation and do not need any additional legal authority to possess taser.

Safety and Security

- For safety and security reasons, during training, transportation and operational use, officers must secure the taser in the overt holster, fitted securely to the body armour cover, until it is required for use.
- If carried by officers deployed in plain clothes the taser must be carried in a purpose designed holster or harness.
- The Chief Officer Team has authorised that the taser can be carried permanently by Specially Trained Officers (STOs).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- STOs will wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) and stab vests at all times.
- This is not optional on the basis of the risks posed by the nature of incidents that the officer will be attending.

Training and Authorising Users**Introduction**

- Taser will only be issued to officers who are authorised to carry it.
- **STOs** – will be deployed either as a double crewed Specially Trained Unit (STU), double crewed with a non-Taser Officer, or deploy single crewed. Will be allocated a callsign which identifies them as being either a double crewed STU or a STO for deployment purposes.
- **Firearms Support Unit (FSU) and Armed Crime Tactical Team (ACTT)** – who will be deployed as part of a team will be allocated appropriate callsigns in line with their armed capability. The FSU will be deployed double crewed but it is recognised they may separate in some deployments.

Officer Selection and Training

- Taser may only be issued to substantive constables (including Sergeants) irrespective of entry route, as WYP requires officers to have a grounding in the policing model before being trained for this aspect of PPE.
 - With the exception of armed Officers, all other Officers who have been selected for training will undertake a 5 day course, one day is devoted to OST, one day is devoted to First Aid and 3 days are devoted to Taser. When trained, officers will be classed as part of a Specially Trained Unit (STU), however, in effect their duties will remain the same other than the added responsibility of being taser trained.
 - To be selected, all officers must be:
 - Current in their officer safety and first aid qualifications; and
 - Recommended by their supervisor.
 - Officers selected by district or department will be subject of a vetting check conducted by the Force Vetting Unit. This request can be submitted by a district Taser SPOC or deputy on the online system. In the event of there being concerns raised by the Vetting unit then the district SPOC or deputy **must** consult with the Force Taser SPOC to determine whether the Officer is permitted to be trained or not.
 - Transferees from Home Office Forces and BTP may continue to carry CED provided they meet the above criteria and have been trained on the specific CED in use in WYP.
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Deployment

- An officer cannot be deployed operationally with taser if they are not current in both their Taser training and Officer Safety Training and First Aid accreditations. All must be done annually.
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Refresher Training

- Refresher training will be conducted to maintain currency with the operation and tactics associated with the equipment. This will be a 3 day arrangement with one day devoted to OST, one day devoted to First Aid and one day devoted to Taser. Refreshers for Taser, Officer Safety Training and First Aid must be conducted annually.
- FSU officers who transfer to an unarmed role need to assess whether they need to attend a Taser refresher to enable them to deploy with Taser as part of a STU. The following circumstances need to be considered:
 - FSU Officer leaves to join an unarmed role - this Officer is going to remain as a district AFO and will undertake mandatory Firearms refresher training when required. As long as the Officer remains in date for Taser the Officer can deploy with Taser as a STU. The Officer has responsibility to adhere to Chronicle and Taser accreditation status.
 - FSU Officer leaves to join a unarmed role and will not receive any future Firearms training. As long as the Officer remains in date for Taser the Officer can deploy with Taser as a STU. The Officer has responsibility to adhere to Chronicle and Taser accreditation status. The Officer has responsibility to look at securing a place on a Taser

refresher course delivered by Public Order Training to ensure that they remain current in required Taser accreditation.

- Officers who have moved from an unarmed role or FSU posting and return within a two year period, need only attend a one day taser refresher.
 - Full re-training will be required outside this time period.
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Authority Rescinded

- The authority to deploy with taser will be rescinded on the date of the officers posting if they are:
 - A district uniform officer and move to another role other than the PIT/RPU/NS role at Ops Support; and/or
 - A PIT/RPU/NS Officer at Ops Support and move to another department other than a district uniform role.
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Issue and Return of Equipment

Booking Tasers In and Out

- All STOs will draw tasers and cartridges for operational use using the Chronicle armoury management system.
- All Officers must be in possession of a Taser card issued to them by the Taser SPOC / identified card issuer. This card needs to be presented by the Officer to the card reader in the armoury. This will prompt Chronicle to check the Officers compliance with role profile qualifications.
- If the Officer is in date with role profile requirements then the system informs the Officer that they can proceed to drawing Taser from the wall mounted cabinet. The Officer then presents the card again to the cabinet key pad on the cabinet handle. A Taser device and one cartridge is drawn from the cabinet.
- The Taser device is then presented to the same card reader in order to book out the device on Chronicle.
- In the event of an Officer being prevented from drawing Taser by the Chronicle system, this can be attributable to 2 scenarios which are:
 - Officer is out of date with role profile requirements and cannot draw Taser and deploy operationally. The Officer must under no circumstances draw Taser by means of someone else gaining access to the cabinet by either card or master key.
 - Chronicle system is believed to be faulty and the officer can prove to the duty Inspector that they are in date with all role profile requirements. In this circumstance the master key provided by the duty Inspector can be used in order to draw Taser.
 - In the event of the Chronicle system being assessed as faulty then the Taser SPOC needs to be notified. The Taser SPOC will consult with IT / JML colleagues in order to remedy the issue.
 - In the event of Chronicle being faulted then the paper Form 135 book will be used as the fallback position.
- The booking in and out of tasers will be recorded on Body Worn Video.

- In the event of there being an unintentional discharge in the armoury then the Officer must dock the BWV and mark this as evidential as part of post incident reporting procedures. In the event of there being no discharge in an armoury then the BWV is to be marked as non evidential.
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Body Worn Video (BWV)

- All Taser officers must deploy with BWV and carry this on their Tac vest as trained. BWV will be turned on and used at incidents where Taser officers are deployed.
 - It is a firm expectation that BWV will be used in all deployments of STUs and STOs, please see the Body Worn Video policy.
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Defective Equipment

- Where equipment is discovered defective after issue it will be immediately taken out of service and:
 - In the case of FSU or PIT/RPU/NS officers, notify the FSU operational firearms commander (OFC)
 - In the case of STUs in districts, notify the district taser lead
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Responsibilities

Taser Armoury Support Officer/Taser Technician

Responsibility

- Carry out downloads of all Tasers on a bi monthly basis using evidence sync software fitted to the armoury networked computers;
 - Review downloads and cross reference any use which is not part of the armoury process to submitted Use of Force Forms; and investigate any discrepancies and, where appropriate, refer to the designated district Chief Inspector;
 - Retain the download information in evidence sync;
 - Carry out prompt downloads of Tasers which have been fired operationally and isolated by the Officer who fired the device;
 - Send such reports to the District taser lead and Head of Public Order Training.
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District CED Lead

Role

- A district taser lead will be nominated by the District Commander and will not be below the rank of Chief Inspector.
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Responsibility

The district taser lead will:

- Review reports generated by the Taser Armoury Support Officer for their area and take necessary action to ensure process is adhered to;

- Investigate any use of taser which is not referenced in a use of force form and inform the Head of Public Order Training of the outcome;
- Ensure officers posted to their area who have a permit to carry taser comply with this policy and use of force recording requirement;
- Ensure the following is completed:
 - Weekly inventory checks on all taser equipment
 - Completion of the taser armoury weekly inspection book (F194); and
 - Submit the tear away copy to the Head of Public Order Training
- Monitor the stocks of taser cartridges and DPMs;
- Be the single point of contact with the taser team.

Replenishment or reporting of faulty taser equipment must be done by email to the Taser Mailbox.

NDM Trained Supervisor

Responsibility

- NDM trained supervisors will conventionally be Inspectors or people qualified to act in that rank. The term “NDM trained supervisors” replaces the previous term “Taser Authorising Officer”.
- The NDM trained supervisor is the assessing officer and will:
 - Use district taser officers for general call handling;
 - Manage incidents attended by taser officers and make every effort to release taser officers from those incidents should they be required for a taser deployment;
 - Assess all incidents brought to their attention using the NDM and only deploy taser officers in accordance with the deployment criteria;
 - Supervise each authorisation and ongoing actions. They can delegate the assessing officer responsibility to a suitably NDM trained substantive sergeant in exceptional circumstances, e.g. when engaged in an activity which would prevent them from assessing the risk. It is not acceptable to delegate this role to a sergeant at the beginning of a tour of duty and expect them to deal with all taser assessments during that period;
 - Inform the Force Incident Manager/ FDO of any arc, aim/red dot, firing or drive stun use of the taser;
 - Inform the Force Critical Incident Cadre member of any firing or drive stun use of the taser;
 - Ensure that following a Taser firing or drive stun that the Officer who used the device is instructed to isolate the Taser device so that a download of the device can take place. This is done by the Taser device being placed in the faulty device section of the Chronicle Cabinet in the armoury;
 - Conduct debriefs of the use of taser at the direction of the reviewing officer;

- Ensure officers complete a Use of Force Form for all taser uses, ensuring a copy is forwarded to the district taser lead;
- Contact the Force Critical Incident Cadre member for pre-planned incidents.

For Individuals who are not trained to assess taser deployments, taser officers will not be deployed on their team, unless another Inspector who has had the relevant training is identified to deal with the assessments.

Force Critical Incident Cadre

Responsibility

The Force Critical Incident Cadre member on duty will:

- Assess the planned deployments of officers carrying taser for pre-planned arrest enquiries and allocate to the most appropriate officers to conduct the enquiries;
 - Review any contact or drive stun uses of taser using body worn video as part of this review and also provide general feedback on the incident and direction to the officer concerned to isolate the Taser device in the armoury cabinet so that a download of the device can take place at the earliest opportunity;
 - In the event of concerns being identified, consider immediately withdrawal of the officers authority to carry taser;
 - Submit a report to the Chief Superintendent, PS - Ops, surrounding any withdrawal in order that they may review the decision at the earliest opportunity.
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Chief Inspector Operations, PS - Ops

Responsibility

The Chief Inspector Operations, PS – Ops will:

- Provide advice to the designated district Chief Inspector;
 - In the event of concerns being identified consider immediate withdrawal of the officers authority to carry taser;
 - Submit a report to the Chief Superintendent, PS - Ops, surrounding any withdrawal in order that they may review the decision at the earliest opportunity.
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Force Duty Officer (FDO)

Responsibility

The FDO will:

- Assess incidents that may require the deployment of officers with taser and make those assessments accordingly in accordance with the NDM and deployment criteria, monitoring any deployments made;

- Review the non-contact use of taser under the direction of the Force Critical Incident Cadre;
 - Put an entry on the FMDL for all incidents involving the firing or drive stun use of the taser;
 - Act as the link to the post incident manager (PIM), if required;
 - Advise Force Critical Incident Cadre member/district firearms cover of any arc, firing or drive stun use of the taser;
 - When reviewing non-contact taser use, inform the Force Critical Incident Cadre if there is activity warranting a suspension of permit for further investigation.
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Duty PS - Ops Inspector

- Responsibility** The duty PS - Ops Inspector will:
- Carry out the function of post incident manager;
 - Inform the duty Force Critical Incident Cadre member of any firing or drive stun of taser by RPU, NS, PIT and FSU staff;
 - Be a point of reference for advice in relation to taser incidents and the post incident process;
 - Conduct debriefs of the use of taser at the direction of the reviewing officer;
 - Ensure officers complete a Use of Force Form for all taser use, check for accuracy.
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CED Officer

- Responsibility** The taser officer will:
- Take personal responsibility to know when the individual taser authority expires i.e. twelve months from the date of basic taser course or taser refresher course;
 - Not deploy operationally with taser if the taser authority has expired;
 - Only take two cartridges out operationally;
 - When despatched to an incident without a taser assessment having been made, request an assessment where it is believed an assessment is required, based on the threat and risk;
 - Report lost/misplaced taser equipment to the district taser SPOC immediately on discovery. The district taser SPOC will then initiate a full investigation;
 - Ensure that following a Taser firing or drive stun that the device is isolated and secured in the Taser armoury as soon as practicable following the incident. The device needs to be secured separately away from other deployable devices. This is to allow for a download of the device to take place which is undertaken by a trained downloader;
 - Participate and reflect on debriefs of the use of taser. The purpose of the review is to identify points of learning that may improve officer practice

and safety (specifically or wider) and to generate reassurance that the use of taser is:

- Deployed in circumstances where there is the potential for conflict
- Any use of taser is proportionate to the threat faced – with an expectation that it would only be reasonably considered for use when faced with aggressive (the person fights back), serious or aggravated resistance (where there is the reasonable possibility of great harm or death), or the reasonably held belief there is risk of such
- The threat may be one posed by a subject to themselves (e.g. self harm) but wherever possible it is expected that efforts will be made to resolve such situations without resorting to the use of force
- Use of a CED as a primary means of gaining compliance rather than overcoming a reasonably held threat will raise concern in the reviewing officer.

The reporting of the use of force is subjective, but the review must provide objective scrutiny – the perceptions and assumptions of the officers using force must be proportionately tested or checked, and feedback to officers must be graduated.

Cross Border Protocols

- It may be on occasions, the CED officer is deployed outside of their immediate Force area.
 - An agreed protocol has been reached with Chief Officers outlining the circumstances in which officers equipped with the taser can use the device should they be required to respond in a neighbouring Force area. Individual Chief Officers will remain vicariously liable in civil law for their own officers' actions.
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Deployment

Taser Capacity and Capability

- The foundation of Taser capability in the force remains the double crewed unit.
- There is however greater Taser capability in the form of single crewed Taser Officers, who can draw Taser and be deployable in certain circumstances.
- A tiered approach exists in terms of the availability and deployment of Taser Officers for Spontaneous incidents where the threat assessment has identified the need for Taser as a tactical option to mitigate the threat identified. This has been updated as of October 2019.
 1. A double crewed ARV is the 1st preferred option to deploy to an incident, where the threat assessment has identified the need to send Officers with Taser as the appropriate tactical option.

2. A double crewed District Taser Unit (STU) is the 2nd preferred option to deploy to an incident, where the threat assessment has identified the need to send Officers with Taser as the appropriate tactical option. It is accepted that the STU may be deployed first to such an incident dependent on the proximity/availability of an ARV in the district concerned.
3. The 3rd available option is to identify and deploy 2 single crewed Taser Officers who are on duty in the district concerned. Identified by a call sign that differentiates them from their double crewed colleagues, they are to be deployed only in circumstances where neither an ARV or a STU is able to attend due to their unavailability at that time. The 2 single crewed Taser Officers will come together at a suitable pause point and attend the incident together as a pair of Taser Officers and deal with the incident as normal.
4. The 4th available option is to identify and deploy 1 Taser Officer who is on duty in the district concerned - Identified by a call sign that differentiates them from their double crewed colleagues - along with another Police Officer who is not Taser trained. These 2 Officers will come together at a suitable pause point and attend the incident as a pair of Officers. The Taser trained Officer will take the lead in dealing with the incident and will provide instruction to the other Police Officer especially in the event of restraint and handcuffing of the subject following a Taser firing.

There is an exception regarding option 4 and that concerns a Tutor Constable who is tutoring a Student Officer and the Student Officer has not achieved independent patrol. The Tutor Constable can draw and carry Taser and can self-arm when faced with an immediate threat. The pairing of a Tutor Constable and Student Officer who is in company are not to be deployed to a spontaneous identified incident. This is due to the experience and capability required of the Officer who is assisting the Taser Officer at the incident.

- Each district has a requirement to identify on a shift by shift basis a minimum number of STU's prior to identifying single crewed Taser Officers available for deployment.
 - The numbers of double crewed Taser Units are:
 - Calderdale - 1
 - Wakefield - 1
 - Kirklees - 1
 - Bradford - 2
 - Leeds - 2
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**Single Crewed
Taser Officers –
Additional
Information**

- It is accepted that there will be occasions where a single crewed Taser Officer (not AFOs) may face an immediate spontaneous threat; which prompts them to consider self-arming with Taser as a tactical option. This would be in circumstances where it is impracticable to summons other Taser Officers to the location in order to mitigate the threat.
 - When a double crewed Taser unit is separated for the purpose of other enquiries/tasks, then the officers can retain their Tasers in the period they are separated from their partner. There is no need to return them to the armoury.
 - It is the responsibility of the Inspector to provide Taser capability for the district in a double crewed format so the separation does need to be monitored, reviewed and kept to the minimum time possible. There may be occasions when during the 'period of separating' when a single Taser Officer encounters an incident that presents itself to the officer spontaneously as noted above.
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**Criteria for
Deployment**

- STOs will be deployed at the direction of a National Decision Model (NDM) trained supervisor.
 - All identified incidents will be assessed using the NDM and deployment will occur where the threat assessment identifies:
 1. there is potential for conflict,
 2. the deployment of a STO or STU provides a greater range of options with which the threat can be proportionately managed.
 3. the deployment of a STO or STU is assessed as being proportionate to the threat faced
 - Officers carrying a taser can be deployed conventionally or as part of a STU.
 - When deployed as an STU they must be told that:
 - They have not been given an authority to draw or use taser, the use of any force their own personal responsibility.
 - BWV must be activated.
 - They must complete a use of force form if force is used, or taser is used in any way.
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**Assessing
Officers**

Assessing officers will:

- Assess all incidents brought to their attention using the NDM and deploy taser officers in accordance with the deployment criteria;
 - Will not deploy taser officers to an obvious threat without an assessment; and
 - Record their rationale and instructions of officers on the appropriate command and control log.
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**Spontaneous
Assessment**

- It is acknowledged that during routine patrol, officers may encounter circumstances where there is a potential for conflict, that is unlikely to be

safely dealt with by other officer response options or other officer response options have failed where they feel that the:

- Use of taser is both reasonable and proportionate to the threat; and
 - Immediacy of the threat negates the possibility of seeking authority to deploy with taser.
 - In such circumstances self assessment is acceptable and expected, however, it is the officer's responsibility to justify its use in relation to the deployment criteria and the NDM.
 - Officers who have self-deployed the use of taser in any way it is imperative that they notify the Force Duty Officer.
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**Use of
Authorised
Firearms
Officers (AFOs)**

- In circumstances where AFOs are deployed to a situation, the authorisation to use their firearm will also include the authority to use any other less lethal option or technology with which they have been issued including, where appropriate, the taser.
 - It would be inappropriate for commanders or supervisory officers to attempt to restrict an AFO to a particular less lethal technology or personal safety tactical option.
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**Ongoing
Supervision of
Incident**

- Once deployed, officers will be subject to the supervision of the authorising officer for the incident attended as follows:

Spontaneous Incident

The responsibility of ongoing supervision for the deployment of officers as a STU/STO/FSU remains with the officer assessing the deployment of that unit.

Pre-planned Incident

Assessments for the pre-planned deployment of officers carrying taser can only be made by a TFC. The assessment of TFCs is based on the taser criteria and the most appropriate unit or department to pursue that arrest enquiry.

NB If there are no qualified officers to assess taser deployments, then taser resources will not be deployed.

Initial Action

- When a Storm log is created, the incident is passed to the District Control Room (DCR) which has geographic responsibility for the area where the incident is taking place.
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**Bladed Item or
Similar**

- Any incident involving a bladed item or similar, will be:
 - 'Tagged' on Storm;
 - Assessed by the district inspector using the National Decision Model; and
 - Brought to the attention of the FDO.

NDM Trained Supervisor

The NDM trained supervisor will:

- Can deploy unarmed STU/STOs with a taser when it meets the assessment criteria; and
- Acknowledge the assessment of the FDO and Cadre as superceding the assessment.

Force Duty Officer (FDO)

- At the same time as the NDM trained supervisor is deciding on deployment, the FDO, will assess the log and:
 1. Note the assessment of the district Inspector and take no further **action** being satisfied that their decision is the most appropriate having applied the National Decision Model. (This may be non-taser deployment or a STU deployment);
 2. Consider deployment of taser (using an ARV or STU) if the incident is still awaiting assessment at district level;
 3. Be a 'critical friend' to the district Inspector and review / challenge their decision;
 4. Decide to deploy an ARV with taser; or
 5. Decide to deploy an ARV with spontaneous firearms authority. In respect of the FDO, there will always be a preference to deploy an ARV to the incident where taser is assessed as an appropriate option, particularly in the cases of bladed instruments being used or threatened.

Force Duty Officer (FDO)

- The FDO will support the self-deployment of an ARV on the basis of the existing assessment from district, thereby having taser authority.

Multiple Units Attending

- If multiple units attend an incident, the ARV will take the lead in dealing with the threat, unless this is to the detriment of units already present which are effectively dealing with the incident.

Post Incident**Examination by Forensic Medical Examiner (FME)**

- All arrested persons who have been subjected to the discharge of a taser (firing or drive stun) must be examined by an FME as soon as practicable. If the detained person has sustained a head injury as a result of the secondary effect of the taser discharge, the FME must use their clinical judgement, based on the degree of injury, as to whether to refer the detainee to hospital.
- Particular attention must be given to detained persons who are known to have, or are suspected to be suffering from:
 - Diabetes;

- Asthma;
 - Heart disease;
 - Epilepsy; or
 - Any other condition, including alcohol and/or illicit drug intoxication, which may influence their fitness to be detained and which, in some cases, may warrant transfer to hospital.
 - If an individual is detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act and conveyed direct to a hospital – the doctor in charge of the Mental Health Unit at the hospital must be informed of this procedure.
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Monitoring

- It is very important to closely monitor a subject throughout the period following application of the taser.
 - If the person is detained in a cell they must be subject to the same cell supervision provided for persons who have consumed alcohol or drugs.
 - If there are any signs of adverse or unusual reactions, then medical attention must be provided immediately and, if necessary, this must be given precedence over conveying the subject to the police station.
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Information Leaflet

- At the earliest opportunity, following arrival at the custody suite, anyone who has been subjected to a taser discharge must be given an information leaflet describing the taser, its operation and effects.
 - This must be fully explained and recorded on the custody record.
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Other Information Leaflets

- Information leaflets are also available online for the following:
 - Custody Staff
 - Healthcare Professionals
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Detainee Refuses to Have Barbs Removed

Introduction

- In the unlikely event that a detainee refuses to have the taser barbs removed, the escorting officer must:
 1. Take the detainee to the custody area;
 2. Place the detainee under constant supervision;
 3. Contact FME to attend as soon as possible to remove barbs;
 4. If they refuse treatment give the detainee the option again to have the barbs removed by a medically qualified person; and
 5. If they still refuse the barbs must be removed by a suitably trained officer. Unless the barbs are attached to a vulnerable area, i.e. the eyes.
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Officers Trained in the Removal of Barbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers who have been trained in the use of the taser and shown the correct way to remove the barbs must go with the detainee to the cell area.
Healthcare Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FME must remain on hand through the entire procedure and, should the detainee change their mind, be responsible for removing the barbs.
Removal by Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the Force Solicitor has advised that the barbs can be removed by force as a last resort, if this is necessary to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The detainees own welfare; ○ The safety of officers and others in the cell area; and ○ Compliance with PACE.
Treatment once Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever way the barbs are removed, the detainee will be offered suitable treatment afterwards.

Post Use - Evidence Recovery

Minimum Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, the following items must be recovered as a minimum standard for all incidents where a taser has been fired: <p>Cartridge Including wires and barbs to show complete and range used at. Not to be spooled, i.e. wound around the cartridge.</p> <p>Identification Discs Add sufficient to confirm serial number, photograph location if possible. These are spread randomly and will not show trajectory.</p> <p>Forensic Medical Examiner Report Persons subjected to taser firing or drive stun must be examined by FME.</p> <p>Use of Force Form Required for national records so submit via galaxy handheld device or pronto desktop.</p> <p>Photographs Incident detail to show scene, weapons involved / available to suspect, identification discs / officer location(s), suspect location(s), injuries to police / suspect and barbs location. Intention to tell as much of the incident in photographic detail as possible. At the discretion of the PIM.</p>
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Photographs will **only** be required at incidents:

- where there is likelihood of a public complaint; or
- which cause concern for either the officer using or the officer authorising.

Taser

As soon as practicable to secure the Taser device in the armoury away from other devices in order for a prompt download to take place by a trained downloader.

The faulty device section of the Taser cabinet can be used for this.

Notify the district Taser SPOC that this has been done.

Suspension and Withdrawal of Authority

Reasons

- An authority to use taser may be suspended:
 1. After a review by Force Critical Incident Cadre member;
 2. After a review by Chief Inspector Firearms, PS – Ops;
 3. Where concerns are expressed by a Strategic Firearms Commander;
 4. Where concerns are expressed by the Professional Standards Department; or
 5. Where any supervisor has reason to question the continued suitability of an officer. The matter must be raised with the duty Force Critical Incident Cadre who will:
 - Review the circumstances; and
 - Determine whether to withdraw the authority;
 6. Where there are concerns raised regarding general performance or welfare of the officer concerned a suspension or withdrawal of the permit to carry taser can be raised to the Supt (Operations) for the relevant District or Department who must then report to the Ch Supt (Operations).
 7. The purpose of any review is to identify points of learning that may improve officer practice and safety (specifically or wider) and to generate reassurance that the use of taser is:
 - Deployed in circumstances where there is the potential for conflict.
 - Any use of taser is proportionate to the threat faced – with an expectation that it would only be reasonably considered for use when faced with assaultive (the person fights back), serious or aggravated resistance (where there is the reasonable possibility of great harm or death), or the reasonably held belief there is risk of such.The reporting of the use of force is subjective, but the review must provide objective scrutiny – the perceptions and assumptions of the officers using force must be proportionately tested or checked.
 8. In all of the following circumstances the authority to continue to carry a taser will be suspended, pending the review process detailed below,

when an officer discharges or uses drive stun/angle drive stun on a subject in a:

- In control of a motor vehicle
- When the subject appears to be running away
- Is in a police custody center
- When handcuffs have been applied
- In the drive stun or angled drive stun mode
- In circumstances where the subject is exposed to 4 or more cycles of electricity.

The purpose of this withdrawal of authority to carry a taser is to gather information and assessments from subject matter experts before making a decision that is more widely informed. The assessment is not just one of the use of force but the appropriate use of taser specifically.

When reviewing a use of force the consideration of impact factors must be accommodated into an assessment of proportionality and necessity. Some impact factors may be considered to be a vulnerability, but it does not necessarily remove the threat to officers or the public in all circumstances. When conducting the reviews please consider any possible vulnerabilities that are apparent (age, disability, learning difference, etc.) in conjunction with the threat posed, with the aim of defining them as an aggravating or mitigating factor in determining a reasonable response to the threat faced.

9. An officer with a permit to carry taser (STO) who has any doubt or concern of their own suitability to carry taser has a responsibility for reporting their concerns through their line management structure who must deal with the issues raised with sensitivity and effectiveness.

Initial Action

- The person suspending the authority must immediately report it to the Chief Superintendent, PS - OPS. Their report must:
 - Provide their detailed rationale for this action; and
 - Confirm that the individual officer has been made aware by the person withdrawing the authority.
-

**Chief Superintendent
PS - OPS**

- The Chief Superintendent, PS - OPS, will review the suspension of the officer's authority to carry taser at an early stage as set out below.
- The Chief Superintendent, PS - OPS, will:
 1. As the dedicated decision maker in this process review the suspension of a Taser authority. This will be done in consultation with the Chief Firearms Instructor who in reference to the regional SOPs will provide an assessment of the Officers capability and the Head of Public Order Training. This will be based upon the professional views of a lead Taser Instructor who has spoken to the officer and undertaken a thorough debrief of the operational activity which led to the review taking place; and

2. Write to the officer who has had their taser authority suspended with the result of the review at the earliest opportunity and report the outcome at the next appropriate Firearms Steering Group. They may reinstate the authority prior to this meeting but must report this has happened at the meeting. Where a withdrawal of permit to carry is recommended this must be referred to the ACC (Operations) and the Firearms Steering Group or if necessary by a more expeditious route.

Role of Chief Officer

- The ACC (Operations) will review the decisions by the Chief Superintendent (PS – OPS) at the Firearms Steering Group and can confirm, defer or delay a decision on the reinstatement or permanent withdrawal of the permit.
-

Self Withdrawal

- At any stage an officer can elect to self withdraw and will not need to give a written explanation.
-

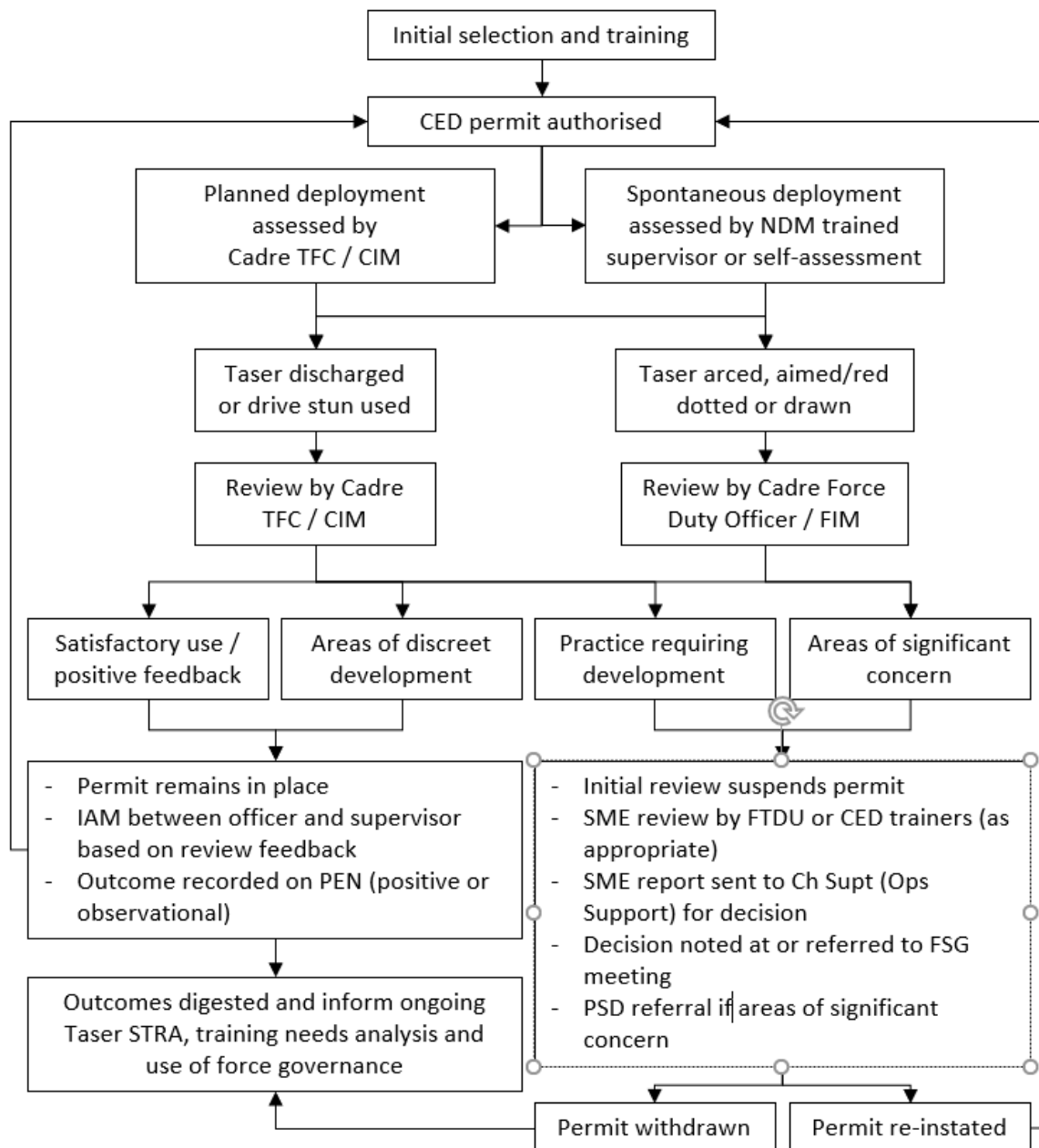
Referral to IOPC

- Taser discharges only need to be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) if they:
 - Resulted in death or serious injury;
 - Caused danger to the public; or
 - Revealed failings in command.
 - This does not preclude officers from referring discharges in other circumstances if it is appropriate, e.g. if taser is used outside current policy procedure.
 - In high profile cases where none of the mandatory referral criteria have been triggered, or where there are exceptional circumstances, officers must strongly consider voluntarily referring the matter, including those cases where taser was used:
 - In confined spaces such as custody suites;
 - In drive-stun mode;
 - On young people; and
 - On people with mental health problems or who are otherwise vulnerable.
-

Unintentional Discharges

- In the event of an unintentional discharge, where there has been no danger to the public, the incident will be referred to the Chief Superintendent PS - OPS via the Force taser SPOC. The officer's taser authority will be removed until the incident has been reviewed by the meeting.
 - Officers must report all unintentional discharges of taser to their Inspector who will refer the matter via their district taser SPOC.
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Force Enhanced Governance and Command Structure - Flowchart



Information Leaflets Regarding the Use of Taser

**Further
information**

Further information for the following can be accessed online:

- Person on whom the Taser has been used
 - Custody staff
 - Healthcare professionals
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Additional Information

Compliance

This policy complies with the following legislation, policy and guidance:

- APP Armed policing
 - Data Protection Act 2018
 - Body Worn Video policy
 - Firearms – Post incident procedure
 - Police use of firearms
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