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| Event History

**Policy owned by Operational Services
Firearms (Police Use Of)****1. Policy Purpose and key drivers****Introduction**

This policy outlines the aims and objectives of Staffordshire Police in relation to the management, command and deployment of armed officers. The ultimate aim of this policy and its related operational procedures is to resolve incidents involving firearms, the threat of firearms or other lethal weapons with the minimum degree of force proportionate to the threat and with the safety of all concerned paramount.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish corporate standards, clear and defined roles and responsibilities; and standard operating procedures that are designed to provide consistency, safety, accountability and that any deployment of armed officers is proportionate, legitimate and necessary.

Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of the management, command and deployment of armed officers within Staffordshire Police. It deals with authority levels, notifications, protocols, tactics, command and control, objectives, recording, deployment and the issue and use of weapons/ munitions. It also addresses loading/unloading procedures, carriage of weapons, making safe of weapons/munitions, forensic recovery, transportation, storage and disposal of weapons/munitions.

It does not include issues surrounding firearms licensing or the criminal use of firearms.

Policy Statement

Staffordshire Police provides an armed capability to manage and minimise the risk of armed criminality not only within Staffordshire but also throughout the United Kingdom as required.

These duties include response to incidents, close protection, armed support to surveillance and pro-active armed operations.

Staffordshire Police will only arm officers who have undergone a specific selection and training programme that complies with the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum and each Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) will be equipped in accordance with their training and role.

AFOs are required to achieve specific levels of training and fitness in order to maintain both their occupational and operational competence in their role.

Officers responsible for the management, command and deployment of armed officers must also maintain both their occupational and operational competence in order to remain in that role.

No officer will be deployed without an appropriate and specific firearms authority.

Related Documents

Links to related documents:

- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Armed Protection on NHS Premises \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Armed Response Vehicles \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Armoury Procedures \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Checking of Operational Weapons \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Examination Seizure & Destruction \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Information, Intelligence & Initial Action. \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Post Incident Management Processes \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Recording of Decisions \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Standing Authority \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Training \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Unintentional Discharge \(Procedure\)](#)
- [Firearms \(Police Use Of\) - Welfare \(Procedure\)](#)

Gatekeeper - the Author suggested the following Procedure document(s) to link to.

- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Armed Protection on NHS Premises;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Armed Response Vehicles;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Armoury Procedures;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Checking of Operational Weapons;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Examination Seizure & Destruction;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Information, Intelligence & Initial Action.;
- Firearms (Police use of) - On Call Team;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Post Incident Management Processes;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Recording of Decisions;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Standing Authority;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Training;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Unintentional Discharge;
- Firearms (Police Use Of) - Welfare

Relevant Dates and Review Period

Effective Date:	11/05/2017
Review Date:	11/05/2018
Review Frequency:	Annually

Policy Basis and Implications

2. Legal Basis: The legislation that supports the aims and objectives of this policy are contained within the European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 2 - 14) 1998. How those aims and objectives are achieved is supported by Common Law, Section 117 PACE 1984, Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967 and the Police Code of Ethics. This legislation governs the necessary, proportionate and reasonable use of force that is employed by Police Officers

3. Management of Police Information (MoPI):

MoPI Policing Purpose:

Protecting Life and Property, Preserving order, Preventing the commission of offences, Bringing offenders to justice, Any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law

MoPI Review, Retention and Disposal addressed as follows:

All data recorded within the Tactical Support Department is kept either electronically or on a hard copy for a minimum period of 7 years. Data recorded includes, command logs, firearms issue registers, training records, post incident records. At the conclusion of that 7 year period and where exceptional circumstances apply the information will be subject to a review and may (under the Authorised Professional

Practice Information Management (Formerly MoPI) groupings) be retained for longer periods applicable to the information as categorised. An example of information subject to longer retention periods will be the records for a post critical incident review. Such information will then be subject to the 10 year review process as per the Authorised Professional Practice Information Management rules.

4. Associated Benefits:	This policy establishes clear instructions and Standard Operating Procedures for the safe and appropriate application in respect of the management, command and deployment of Armed Officers. It will engender confidence in the public by reassuring them that only appropriately trained officers will undertake the roles and responsibilities of Authorised Firearms Officers and Firearms Commanders. It will also seek to provide protection and safety to communities living, working and visiting the county of Staffordshire.
5. Consultation:	Firearms Incident Commanders Meeting Regional Working Group on Armed Policing NPCC Working Group on Armed Policing NPCC Firearms Secretariat The College of Policing
6. Financial Implications:	All financial implications are met through existing funding.
7. Human Resources / Training:	Training and Human Resource implications are catered for through existing processes.
8. Associated Policy:	Use of Police Negotiators

FOI, Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment Indicators

FOIA:	Release to Public	
ECHR:	Compliant with proportionality test	Articles engaged: Article 2 Right To Life; Article 3 Prohibition of Torture; Article 5 Right to Liberty and Security; Article 6 Fair Trial; Article 7 No Punishment without Law; Article 8 Right to respect for Private and Family life; Article 9 Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion; Article 10 Freedom of Expression; Article 11 Freedom of Assembly and Association; Article 14 Prohibition of Discrimination; Protocol, Article 1 - Protection of Property
EIA:	Compliant	Compliant with Code of Ethics: Yes

Indexing

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