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SI0120

Police Pursuits

This Service Instruction outlines the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) specific guidance in support of that provided in Authorised Professional Practice (APP) [Police Pursuits](#) and relevant Codes of Practice.



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1. Introduction

Wherever possible, trying to prevent a pursuit from taking place must be a primary consideration.

2. Armed Pursuits

The directions contained herein take primacy over the APP instructions.

Where information or intelligence exists indicating that the occupants of a subject vehicle are, or are likely to be, armed, Authorised Firearms Officers/Specialist Firearms Officers (AFO/SFO) should be used to terminate that pursuit. Where possible, advice from a Firearms Tactical Adviser/Pursuit Tactical Adviser (FTA/PTA) should be sought by the Tactical Firearms Commander.

Where armed pursuit is being planned for, or is in progress:	
With Pursuit Tactical Adviser (PTA) and Firearms Tactical Adviser (FTA) in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The firearms adviser will have primacy; and • Any tactical resolution proposed by the FTA should, in so far as is possible, be in line with PTA advice and this Service Instruction.
When non- Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) are assisting an AFO or Specialist Firearms Officers (SFOs) vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pursuit Commander should be an appropriate AFO or SFO.

Unless tactical advice is to the contrary, an AFO/SFO vehicle should not be used:

- Directly in unarmed pursuit situations (**unless no other suitable alternative exists**); or
- In tactical options, which may lead to it being disabled.

However, where it is believed that the suspect may be armed and an AFO/SFO vehicle is involved, only suitably Pursuit qualified and authorised drivers, in appropriate vehicles should be used.

Firearms tactics should be used in line with current [APP Armed Policing](#) and Service Policies.

The instructions outlined in Service Policy SP0116 Armed Policing, apply equally to vehicle pursuit situations.

Armed officers in pursuits

In contrast to APP, all officers in the PSNI are armed and consequently may take part in a pursuit:

- In line with their pursuit and firearms training; and
- Using the range of firearms and vehicle tactics commensurate with their training and role.

3. Prohibited Vehicles

In addition to the list of APP prohibited pursuit vehicles:

- Vehicles which can transport a large number of personnel, e.g. personnel carriers;
- Unmarked vehicles which do not have audio and visual warning equipment fitted, including hired and personal vehicles; and
- Motorcycles ridden by non-response-level motorcyclists.

The PSNI also prohibit the following from being used in Pursuits:

- All armoured vehicles, including armoured Land Rovers.

4. Cross-Border Pursuits

Pursuit of a vehicle shall not extend into the Republic of Ireland (RoI). Informing An Garda Síochána of any subject vehicle, which is anticipated or likely to enter the RoI, will be dealt with as per Contact Management Protocols.

5. Incident Coordination Centre (ICC)

Pursuit managers within ICC are responsible for authorising and managing pursuits. ICC should be consulted in circumstances where it is foreseeable/likely that a subject vehicle will not stop for police so that a pre-planned operation can be considered.

ICC will manage communications on the District radio channel where the pursuit commences, with notification relayed to other Districts. Where communications are

disrupted, it will be for ICC to decide whether to continue with the pursuit.

6. Pursuit Returns

The Officer instigating a Pursuit will receive a Niche workflow requiring submission of a Pursuit Return Form T32. This information is collated by Traffic & Driver Training to inform training needs and identify issues of concern.

Appendix A Contact Us

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