

# Chapter 10:

## **Personal Issue Handguns, Heckler & Koch Weapons and Specialist Munitions**

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#### Accounting for, and Inspection of Personal Issue Handguns

- 10.1 Officers' personal issue handguns will be inspected by armourers during attendance at firearms training. They will, however, present for accounting purposes their handguns, ammunition and any related magazines or loaded devices, to their line managers/supervisors who will record that the weapon, ammunition etc was produced for accounting purposes. This accounting process should be completed once a month.
- 10.2 Standing Orders should clarify that custody suites are 'firearms restricted areas'. (Policy Directive 05/09 - Custody refers.) Any other prohibited/restricted areas should also be identified.
- 10.3 Whether on or off duty, officers will be responsible for the safe custody of handguns, magazines and ammunition on personal issue to them.
- 10.4 Where officers on an off duty activity/visit cannot be fully satisfied that they can safely retain their firearm on their person, they must either reconsider the location or purpose of the activity/visit or go unarmed.
- 10.5 Firearms kept at home must always be kept in a safe place to avoid accidents or theft. Consideration should be given to depositing the ammunition in a place apart from the firearm, although, this is not to preclude officers who require their firearm to be immediately available from doing so provided all reasonable precautions are observed.
- 10.6 When not at their home address due to a period of leave, etc the officer should hand in their firearm for safe custody at an operational police station. This should also be a consideration if paragraph 10.4 above applies.
- 10.7 Any civilian employee who is in possession of a personal protection weapon will be responsible for its safe custody whilst in police premises. Any civilian employee who brings a personal protection weapon into police premises will inform the officer in charge of the premises, who will ensure they are properly instructed as to their responsibilities for safe and discreet retention of the weapon.