

SUMMARY OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Appendix Two

Summary of Aims and Objectives – Proposed Introduction of Taser

<p>What is the policy and who defines the policy?</p>	<p>The policy is the proposed introduction of Taser technology by PSNI to be used in firearms and suspected firearms incidents as a less lethal option to using conventional firearms. The proposed policy is defined by PSNI.</p>
<p>What are the aims, and objectives of the policy?</p>	<p>The introduction of Taser aims to provide a less lethal firearms capability to specialist and authorised firearms officers.</p> <p>The other aims and objectives of the proposed policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to bring PSNI into line with National policy and practice; ▪ to enhance the ability of PSNI to protect life; preserve order; and prevent the commission of offences; and ▪ to avoid situations where live firearms are used in situations where Taser could be used.
<p>What outcomes do PSNI want to achieve with the policy? For whom?</p>	<p>PSNI want to ensure that in situations where consideration needs to be given to the use of firearms, that there is access to a full range of less lethal options to ensure that the minimum possible force is used to improve the capacity of PSNI officers to protect the right to life.</p>
<p>How do the policy aims meet or hinder other policies, values or objectives of PSNI or of Government?</p>	<p>PSNI believe that the proposed policy is consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular the obligation under Article 2 to protect the Right to Life.</p> <p>Recommendation 21 of an HMIC review of firearms and less lethal weapons in 2005 was that PSNI examine the acquisition of Taser as a further less lethal option for deployment at incidents which merit firearms deployment.</p> <p>Recommendations 69 and 70 of the Report of the Patten Report recommended examining alternative approaches to conflict management including identifying and selecting less lethal technologies.</p>

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<p>Who implements the policy and does the public authority interface with other bodies in relation to the implementation of this policy?</p>	<p>PSNI are responsible for operational policing decisions and for making the decision to introduce the use of Taser.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Policing Board is entitled to be notified by the Chief Constable on decisions concerning the introduction of Taser and to make recommendations to PSNI and the Chief Constable. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has a role to play in respect of providing authority for Taser (a prohibited weapon under the Firearms Order) to be imported into Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>What factors/forces could contribute/ detract from the policy aims?</p>	<p>It is believed that the proposed introduction of Taser will ensure greater consistency with National policy and practice and enhance the ability of PSNI to protect life; preserve order; and prevent the commission of offences. The extent to which the policy aims are achieved would be monitored in the event that the policy is introduced and any factors which impede achievement of the aims fully assessed.</p>
<p>Are there any associated policies?</p>	<p>There are a range of associated policies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSNI Policy Directive -Police Use of Firearms; (includes Attenuating Energy Projectiles) ▪ PSNI Policy Directive Public Order and the Use of Force which includes other less lethal options, CS Spray and Water Cannon; ▪ ACPO Police Use of Firearms Policy (governing use of conventional weapons and Attenuating Energy Projectiles); ▪ ACPO Policy and Operational Use of Taser by Authorised Firearms Officers ▪ PSNI Service Procedure- Positional asphyxia and excited delirium; ▪ PSNI Service Policy on Dealing with persons with a mental disorder. ▪ Policy Directive on Post Incident Procedure Deployment of Post Incident managers – Discharge of firearms

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<p>Who is affected by the policy and who are the main stakeholders in relation to this policy?</p>	<p>There are a range of stakeholders in relation to this policy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSNI as the organisation responsible for implementing the policy; ▪ the general public; ▪ vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, children and young people; ▪ community and voluntary sector organisations including those detailed in Appendix Five, those that responded to the pre-consultation and those that participated in pre-consultation meetings; ▪ statutory organisations including the Northern Ireland Policing Board; Northern Ireland Office; Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; and ▪ individual Police Officers and Police Officer Associations.
<p>Are there any groups that might be expected to benefit from the intended outcomes but do not?</p>	<p>This is a proposed policy and it is not expected that there are any groups expected to benefit, which will not. However, in the event of the introduction of Taser monitoring and review would seek to ensure that there are no groups intended to benefit that do not.</p>
<p>What were the conclusions of the screening process?</p>	<p>The screening recognised that the implementation of Taser may have a differential impact on some groups (children and young people, people from different racial groups, men and women and people with a disability).</p> <p>The decision to carry out an EQIA was made after the screening had been concluded, taking into account the Equality Screening, feedback from key stakeholders including the Northern Ireland Equality Commission and consultation findings.</p>

Source: PSNI