

# Chapter 4:

## Irritant Spray

## Irritant Spray

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# Chapter 4

## Procedures and Guidance for the Deployment and Use of Irritant Spray

### Introduction

PSNI currently use PAVA TW1000 irritant spray:

- 4.1 By virtue of Article 45 of the Firearms (N.I.) Order 2004, PAVA irritant spray is a prohibited weapon. However, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has authorised police officers to be lawfully in possession of them in connection with their duties.
- 4.2 Officers should bear in mind that misuse of irritant spray may amount to an assault, a breach of Article 8 of the ECHR (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life) or in extreme cases, a breach of Article 2 and/or Article 3 of the ECHR (Right to Life and Prohibition of Inhuman or Degrading Treatment). This will necessitate an effective investigation of any such claim by either the Police Service or the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) as appropriate. In any event, every use of irritant spray will be reviewed by the relevant District Commander/Head of Branch.
- 4.3 Officers must ensure that they comply with the PSNI Code of Ethics and the instructions contained in this chapter.
- 4.4 PAVA TW1000 is an irritant dispensed from a hand-held aerosol canister in a liquid stream which contains a 0.3% solution of PAVA (NONVAMIDE) pepper spray in the solvent monopropylene glycol, isopropyl alcohol and water, with a nitrogen propellant. PAVA TW1000 is non-flammable and is safe to use in conjunction with firearms and Conductive Energy Device (TASER®).
- 4.5 PAVA TW1000 will only be issued to officers who have been trained in its use during attendance at Personal Safety Programme (PSP) or who have completed the online training course 'PAVA' which is available on LEARN. Irritant spray will be worn as part of their personal protective equipment. Further information regarding carriage of tactical options can be found in the Corporate Appearance and Protective Equipment Standard (CAPES).
- 4.6 The use of, or threat to use irritant spray, is a use of force and must be recorded on the PSNI Electronic Use of Force Monitoring System. Further information on reporting use of force is available in Chapter 3 Conflict Management Manual.
- 4.7 Whilst irritant spray is not intended for use in large-scale incidents of public disorder, its use may be appropriate against:
  - Those offering a level of violence which cannot be appropriately dealt with by other levels of force.
  - Violent offenders, other than those armed with firearms or similar remote

injury weapons, where failure to induce immediate incapacitation would increase risks to all present.

- 4.8 Police officers shall identify themselves as such, and shall give a clear warning of their intention to use irritant spray unless to do so would compromise the safety of any person or a warning would be clearly inappropriate or pointless in the circumstances of the incident. The wording for such a warning should be:

*“I am a police officer. If you do not comply with my instructions I will use irritant spray.”*

- 4.9 The liquid stream is directional and has a range of up to 4 metres. Optimum accuracy, however, will be achieved over a distance of 1.25 to 2 metres. The operating distance is the distance between the canister and the subject’s eyes, not the distance between the officer and the subject. The spray should not be used:

- At a distance of less than one metre.
- In an enclosed area (e.g. a car).
- On a subject who is restrained or handcuffed.
- As a crowd dispersal tactic (due to the possibility of other officers and innocent bystanders being affected) .

**unless** the nature of the risk to the officer is such that this cannot be avoided. In all such cases, officers must be prepared to justify not only their use of the spray, but also their decision to use it in these circumstances.

- 4.10 Since irritant spray may cause incapacitation, its use against a subject armed with a firearm is not appropriate. Where a subject actually has hold of a firearm, the effects of the spray may cause them to fire indiscriminately. However, if the firearm is merely close at hand, the spray may be useful in preventing a subject actually arming themselves. Due to the potential dangers, use in such circumstances should be carefully considered.
- 4.11 Due to the effects of the spray, the decision to use it on a person in charge or control of a motor vehicle must also be carefully considered.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Custodian

- 4.12 As a prohibited weapon, the possession, storage and control of irritant spray is subject to Article 45 of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004. The arrangements for the safe storage of irritant spray prior to personal issue will be the responsibility of the District Commander/Head of Branch. District Commanders/Head of Branch will appoint an Irritant Spray Custodian(s) for their respective District/Branch.
- 4.13 The Irritant Spray Custodian will be responsible for controlling access to irritant spray canisters and updating Physical Asset Manager (PAM) application which is available on the Common Terminal. District Commanders/Head of Branch will ensure that whoever is appointed as the Irritant Spray Custodian is authorised

by virtue of Art 78 of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004, has read and understood the directions contained in this chapter and will keep themselves apprised of any changes in procedure and guidance.

- 4.14 When an officer requires an irritant spray canister or a replacement canister, they will be issued with a new canister by the Irritant Spray Custodian. In the case of a replacement canister, officers must hand in the old canister prior to receiving a new canister. Each of the irritant sprays are individually serial numbered. Officers are only permitted to be in possession of ONE irritant spray canister at any time and this must be personally issued to the officer through the PAM application. When the officer is issued with an irritant spray canister they will be emailed an electronic receipt from the PAM application.
- 4.15 The Irritant Spray Custodian will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining irritant spray canister stock levels within their District/Branch. The irritant spray central storage cabinet within each District/Branch will be checked by the Custodian on a monthly basis. Additional stock may be requested from Weapon Control through the PAM application.
- 4.16 When Irritant Spray Custodians receive used irritant spray canisters they should ensure that officers have sealed the canisters in a tube and a bag with the occurrence number of the related incident, details of the officer deploying and the canister number clearly written on the outside of the bag.
- 4.17 Irritant Spray Custodians will ensure that used irritant spray canisters are returned to Weapon Control every three months. The PAM application must be updated to reflect their new location.
- 4.18 Irritant Spray Custodians will be responsible for providing discharged canisters to a member of the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) or PSNI's Professional Standards Department (PSD) when requested if the canister is still held within the District/Branch.

## **Supervisor**

- 4.19 Supervising officers will inspect all irritant spray canisters on issue to officers to ensure the integrity of the devices. They will also ensure the serial number of the irritant spray canister presented by the officer matches the one assigned to them on the PAM application and the canister has not passed its expiry date. This inspection will be made quarterly in line with eServices Personal Issue Equipment checks.
- 4.20 Where the irritant spray custodian is not available, supervising officers will issue replacement irritant spray canisters to officers when required and ensure the canister being replaced is returned. Supervising officers will self-authorise to obtain temporary access to the PAM application in order to facilitate this. Temporary access will be reviewed by Weapon Control (normally within 48 hours). Officers are only permitted to be in possession of ONE irritant spray canister at any time and this must be personally issued to the officer through the PAM application.

- 4.21 If an irritant spray canister is reported lost or stolen, the Duty Inspector must be informed as soon as possible. The Duty Inspector will, as soon as possible, circulate details service-wide via the internal email system. They will then conduct a risk assessment on the circumstances of the loss/theft. Where they feel that the circumstances are such that the loss/theft should be circulated to the public, they will make contact with Corporate Communications to discuss the release of the loss/theft to the media to alert the public to the dangers of the Irritant Spray canister should it be used incorrectly. The Duty Inspector will ensure that a written report is forwarded to the District Commander/Head of Branch, who will consult with Professional Standards Department on any disciplinary implications that may arise. The Duty Inspector will ensure that the irritant spray custodian will be informed to ensure the PAM application is updated.

## **Officer**

- 4.22 Officers in the first instance should obtain replacement irritant spray canisters from their local Irritant Spray Custodian. Where this is not possible, for example when operating in another District or when the Custodian is not available, officers may obtain a replacement canister from any Irritant Spray Custodian/Line Manager. In order to provide a 24/7 service for operational officers to obtain irritant spray, District Commanders should ensure supervisors have adequate access to issuing points in the absence of Custodians.
- 4.23 Only those officers who have successfully completed the relevant training will be personally issued with irritant spray. When an officer is issued with irritant spray they are responsible for its safekeeping and secure storage until such time as it has been discharged, is no longer required for operational use, or the device has passed its expiry date. Officers are only permitted to be in possession of ONE irritant spray canister any time. When the officer is issued with an irritant spray canister they will be emailed an electronic receipt from the PAM application. Officers must check that serial number on the receipt matches the canister which has been issued to them. Any discrepancies must be immediately brought to the attention of the Irritant Spray Custodian.
- 4.24 Officers transferring between Districts/Branches will take their issued device with them.
- 4.25 Officers who have a secure locker facility will store their spray, when not in use, in that locker. If an officer does not have a secure locker then the officer will store the spray in an alternative individual secure storage facility for example a locked drawer or cabinet. Appropriate warning notices should be displayed on the storage facility.
- 4.26 If neither of these facilities exists then immediate steps should be taken via local command to ensure that a necessary secure facility is provided.
- 4.27 It is the responsibility of officers to check their irritant spray canister and ancillaries at the commencement of duty to ensure their integrity. Any damage to the canister or loss of content from the canister should be reported to their Irritant Spray Custodian and a replacement canister obtained. It is also advisable to shake the canister in order to agitate the contents.

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- 4.28 When officers draw or discharge irritant spray they will make a notebook entry and report the use on the PSNI Electronic Use of Force Monitoring System as soon as practicable. They will also report this use of force to their supervisor.
- 4.29 Once discharged, the irritant spray device must be replaced as soon as practicable. This will include accidental/unintentional use. All used devices should be placed inside a small plastic weapons tube, and sealed in a tamper-proof evidence bag. **This is not an exhibit; the bag is to prevent leakage of irritant spray.** The canister serial number and occurrence number of the incident should be recorded on the outside of the bag along with details of the officer discharging. Where a spray has been discharged and has become contaminated with any hazardous/noxious substance (e.g. Blood), the tamper-proof evidence bag will be clearly marked with health hazard tape and a description of the contamination. The discharging officer will be responsible for correct packaging. The packaged device should be returned to the Irritant Spray Custodian for storage.
- 4.30 Upon the accidental/unintentional discharge of the irritant spray, an officer of a higher rank than the person who discharged it will submit a report outlining the circumstances of the incident to the District Commander/Head of Branch who will decide whether performance and/or disciplinary procedures need to be implemented. Full consideration must be given to health and safety issues. Until the outcome of any investigation is known, the device should be recorded and stored as in 4.29 above.
- 4.31 Officers will be responsible for requesting a replacement for their irritant spray prior to its expiry date. Out of date irritant spray must not be carried.
- 4.32 Where an arrested person has been sprayed with irritant spray, the officer must inform the Custody Officer as soon as practicable and details will be entered on the custody record.
- 4.33 The theft or loss of irritant spray will be reported immediately to a supervising officer (See 4.21 for Duties of Supervisors in this instance).

### Weapon Control

- 4.34 Weapon Control is responsible for receiving used irritant spray canisters from Irritant Spray Custodians.
- 4.35 Used irritant spray canisters will routinely be retained by Weapon Control for a period of 2 years (from the date of operational use) unless there are criminal or civil proceedings in relation to an irritant spray incident. In this case, Weapon Control will be directed to retain the canister beyond this time until relevant proceedings have concluded.
- 4.36 Weapon Control will be responsible for providing discharged canisters to a member of PONI or PSD when requested if the canister is in their possession.

- 4.37 Weapon Control will be responsible for the safe disposal of irritant spray canisters which are no longer required to be retained. Unused irritant spray canisters which have reached their expiry date may be destroyed immediately upon their return to Weapon Control. See 4.35.

## **Training**

- 4.38 Training will reflect NPCC and Service standards and policies. Irritant spray training will be delivered at PSP refresher training. All officers, including student officers, undertaking PSP training for the first time will be trained in PAVA spray.
- 4.39 Officers will receive annual refresher training in the use of irritant spray when they attend PSP refresher training.
- 4.40 All operational officers up to and including Inspector rank will receive training in the use of irritant spray. This will include comprehensive instruction in aftercare procedures. Officers above Inspector rank will be trained and issued with irritant spray where there is a specific role-related requirement. (See 2.44 of The Conflict Management Manual)

## **Possession and Carriage**

### **The possession, carriage and storage of irritant spray whilst off duty**

- 4.41 Officers can have lawful possession of the spray whilst off duty provided that this is necessary for the purposes of police duty, for example, whilst on call or to facilitate duty away from their normal place of work. No cross-border protocol exists that will allow the carriage or operational use of irritant spray in other force areas. Therefore, possession or carriage of irritant spray outside Northern Ireland is prohibited.

### **Possession on board aircraft**

- 4.42 Irritant spray must not be taken on board an aircraft without the prior authority of the Air Loadmaster (Military Aircraft) or Civil Aviation Authority (Civil Flights).

### **Possession in Prisons**

- 4.43 In the event of police taking control of a prison, the senior police officer present will make a decision as to the carriage of irritant spray and this should be assessed as a tactical option. When prisons are under the normal control of the prison authorities, police officers will not enter prison premises whilst in possession of irritant spray. Prior to entering prison establishments, the irritant spray must be locked in the secure storage area at the entry point or left in the safe custody of another officer.



## Carriage and use of irritant spray in Custody Suites

- 4.44 Irritant spray should not be routinely carried within the confines of a custody suite. The use of irritant spray within the confines of a custody suite must only be in exceptional circumstances. Irritant spray should not be used in an enclosed area or upon a subject who is restrained or handcuffed unless the nature of the risk to the officer or other person is such that this cannot be avoided. If irritant spray is used within the confines of a custody suite, staff will provide aftercare for all persons affected by the irritant and ensure that a full account of the incident is recorded in the custody record of any affected detained persons (DP). Where the affected persons include visitors to the custody suite, e.g. doctors or solicitors, a record must be kept of the identity of those persons.

## Carriage at public order events

- 4.45 Officers will carry their irritant spray whilst on duty and as part of their normal patrol equipment when on duty at public order situations. Such carriage is to provide additional protection to officers who may become isolated or otherwise vulnerable. It must be understood however that there are no group tactical options for irritant spray use in such situations and therefore the use of irritant spray will be at the discretion of individual officers in accordance with the overriding principle of proportionality and necessity as set out above. Any use of irritant spray at a public order situation may have a profound impact on crowd dynamics with implications for public safety and order. There is also the likelihood of widespread cross-contamination which has the potential to cause panic or even hysteria. The decision to use irritant spray in these circumstances must be capable of subsequent justification and the closest scrutiny at all levels. If used at a public order situation, the officer must inform their unit supervisor and Silver Command must be informed without delay.
- 4.46 Irritant spray is not designed for use as a dispersal tactic as it is not always effective. Innocent bystanders and other police officers are often affected. The natural reaction is for officers to put their hands to their faces increasing their vulnerability in crowd situations. It is vital to ensure that irritant spray use does not undermine public confidence in the Police.

## Complaints

- 4.47 Any complaint that is made against a police officer concerning the use of irritant spray shall be reported to the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) (SI 05/17 Public Complaints and the role of the Police Ombudsman refers).
- 4.48 Any incident where the subject of irritant spray use is under 18 years old will be the subject of a Chief Constables notification to PONI (SI 05/17 Public Complaints and the role of the Police Ombudsman refers).

## Aftercare and Contamination

4.49 There are risks associated with using the spray on those who are vulnerable through age (including children), mental illness, alcohol and drugs. It should be noted that the spray may not be effective in certain circumstances and may even exacerbate a violent situation. The spray may also interact with anti-psychotic medication. When dealing with emotionally mentally distressed people who may be prone to violence, consultation with relatives and health care professionals, where possible, is recommended.

### COVID-19

4.50 COVID-19 is by definition a form of 'severe acute respiratory distress'. As with other vulnerable groups, the use of irritant spray on a subject in some respiratory compromise could have the potential for significant deterioration of respiratory distress. As outlined in 4.57 this chapter, if a person is exhibiting signs of severe distress, breathlessness or lapses of consciousness, they must be taken to hospital straight away.

4.51 For PAVA to work effectively it must enter the eyes, the effects of PAVA are usually instantaneous if this happens. The effects of being sprayed with PAVA are primarily pain and discomfort to the eyes causing closure. It may also cause a burning sensation to the skin and may lead to difficulties in breathing and tightness of the chest accompanied by coughing. The subject may also place their hands on their face and drop to their knees. Exposure to fresh air will normally result in recovery from most symptoms within 15 - 20 minutes. Further medical effects of PAVA can be found in PAVA4 'Useful Facts about PAVA' (available on POINT).

4.52 Once the subject is controlled, the officer should give them reassurance that the effects of the spray are temporary. The subject should be instructed to breathe normally as this will aid recovery and prevent hyperventilation. If possible, remove the subject to an uncontaminated area.

4.53 Advise the subject not to rub their eyes or face as this may exacerbate their condition. Although a subject should not be forced to open their eyes, they should be advised to do so as soon as they feel able. This will allow tears to flush the irritant from the eyes. With exposure to PAVA, the subject will experience involuntary closing of the eyes due to localised pain for a short period. If reactions last beyond 15-20 minutes, the use of copious amounts of cool water may be used to flush remaining irritant from the face. Attempting to irrigate the eyes at an earlier stage when they are being forced closed by the effects of the spray would be futile. Under no circumstances should warm water or so-called 'neutralising agents' be used. In all cases the decision to use water must be balanced with the need to preserve forensic evidence.

4.54 Persons sprayed with irritant spray should be asked if they wear contact lenses. As they may experience greater discomfort, they should be allowed to remove their lenses at the earliest opportunity. On no account should a police officer attempt to remove contact lenses from a subject. During the removal of contact lenses, police officers must ensure that the subject is in a safe location or position to prevent them attacking the police officer or escaping.

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- 4.55 Ensure that the control methods used and the position that the subject is placed into do not adversely affect their breathing. Subjects must not be left or transported in a prone position.
- 4.56 Officers are advised that it is preferable for a subject who has been exposed to irritant spray to be transported in a ventilated cellular van or transit van rather than in a police car. If there is no other option than to use a car, extra ventilation should be sought by opening the windows and/or using the internal ventilation system. Under no circumstances will persons contaminated with irritant spray be transported by helicopter.
- 4.57 If a detained person is exhibiting signs of severe distress, breathlessness or lapses of consciousness, they must be taken to hospital straight away. The provision of medical assistance must be given precedence over conveying the subject to the police station.
- 4.58 All members are reminded of their duty to ensure the well-being of DPs in their custody and to fully report the circumstances of a use of force to the Custody Officer at the earliest opportunity. In particular the physical condition and life signs of a detained person must always be carefully and continually monitored during restraint and transportation. This is particularly important where the subject is obese or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- 4.59 A person who has been sprayed with irritant spray will be classified as injured. It will be the responsibility of the Custody Officer to ensure that the circumstances of the use of irritant spray are recorded in the custody record. The following actions should be carried out:
- 4.60 Check the condition of the DP. If necessary allow the DP to walk around outside under supervision. Consider the preservation of forensic evidence.
- 4.61 Arrange for an examination by a Health Care Professional (HCP)/Forensic Medical Officer (FMO) as soon as possible. The HCP/FMO should be provided with details of the force used, care given and any signs of injury.
- 4.62 If the DP has not recovered from the immediate effects after 20 minutes from the time of spraying, arrange for them to wash (under close supervision) with very large amounts of cool water from a normal water source. Specific irrigation of the eyes should only be undertaken by HCPs/FMOs or other trained personnel.
- 4.63 Non-evidential contaminated clothing can, with consent of the DP, be removed and placed in a sealed bag. Gloves should be worn when removing the outer clothing of a person sprayed with irritant spray.
- 4.64 The DP should be kept apart from other DPs and receive enhanced cell supervision similar to that recommended for those who are under the influence of drink or drugs.

- 4.65 At the earliest opportunity, the DP should be handed Form PAVA3 'Information Sheet for Persons Sprayed with PAVA Irritant Spray' (available on POINT), informing them of the spray that has been used and the action to be taken if they suffer any additional problems.
- 4.66 Before a detained person, affected either directly or indirectly by irritant spray, is required to provide evidential breath specimens on the Lion Intoxilyzer 6000, they must have been examined, or refused to be examined, by an FMO. At least 30 minutes must have passed since they were initially exposed to the irritant spray. If the person refuses to be examined by the FMO, this should be noted on the custody record. The FMO will determine that the detained person has recovered from the immediate effects of the irritant spray, not whether they are capable of providing breath specimens. However, the FMO should be made aware that evidential breath specimens might be required. If the person is unable to provide two satisfactory breath specimens on the Intoxilyzer, this could be because of a medical reason. In this case, the provisions of Article 18(4)(a) of the Road Traffic (NI) Order, 1995 should be considered and the person should be required to provide a laboratory specimen (blood or urine) instead of breath.
- 4.67 When a DP is transferred to a prison, the Custody Officer should ensure that any contaminated clothing is bagged and identified as hazardous using 'Health Hazard' tape, and that the prison authorities are informed that the individual has been sprayed with irritant spray.
- 4.68 FMOs/HCPs will be educated in the effects of irritant spray to allow them to deal with persons who have been sprayed. Form PAVA4 (available on POINT), detailing effects will be supplied to FMOs/HCPs.
- 4.69 Information sheets will be issued to all officers who are trained in the use of irritant spray - Form PAVA5 'PAVA Irritant – Information Sheet for Custody' (available on POINT). Copies of this form will also be displayed in custody suites.
- 4.70 In cases of serious public disorder, it may not be possible for officers to administer aftercare advice in person. Officers should consider using the vehicle tannoy system, if available, as a means of administering such advice and the facts recorded in the officer's notebook and statement if applicable.
- 4.71 If an innocent bystander (or other person not arrested) is affected by irritant spray during an incident, aftercare advice and form PAVA 3 should be provided, where possible, by either the officer(s) using irritant spray or other police at the scene.

### **Retention of Contaminated Clothing and other items**

- 4.72 Where it is necessary to retain clothing or other items that have been contaminated with irritant spray, there remains a risk of cross-contamination. These items should be sealed in a tamper-proof evidence bag or DP's property bag.
- 4.73 The officer sealing the item will also be responsible for ensuring that the bag is clearly marked with 'Health Hazard' tape, and clearly label it as 'PAVA Contaminated'.

## Decontamination of Vehicles/Buildings

- 4.74 Normal ventilation should remove the effects of a spray in a room/vehicle in a short period of time. Doors and windows should be left open and air allowed to circulate until the area is clear.
- 4.75 In vehicles, the ventilation or air-conditioning system should be left on to further aid the clearance of the area. No chemical substances should be used to aid decontamination.
- 4.76 Heavily contaminated areas may require repeated washings with water and/or thorough vacuuming depending on the nature of the surface.
- 4.77 Supervisors must consider attending the location of where the irritant spray is used to ensure proper scene management/reporting and that correct decontamination procedures are adopted. Attendance will be particularly important where irritant spray has been discharged in or in the vicinity of commercial premises or public areas. Form PAVA6 "Information for owners and occupiers of premises where PAVA Spray has been used" (available on Point), has been developed to assist officers. PAVA6 will be handed/delivered to the owners and/or occupiers of premises where PAVA Spray has been used as soon as practicable after the incident.
- 4.78 Where officers suffer adverse or lasting side effects following the discharge of an irritant spray device, they may report the incident as an injury on duty.
- 4.79 Supervisors should offer officers involved FMO/HCP examination.

## Positional Asphyxia and Acute Behavioural Disturbance

- 4.81 These are two conditions identified as risks during arrest and restraint procedures which must be considered following the use of physical restraint and/or use of force on an individual.

### 4.82 Positional Asphyxia

Positional Asphyxia is a form of asphyxia (a state of deficient supply of oxygen to the body that arises from abnormal breathing) which occurs when someone's position prevents the person from breathing adequately.

There is a risk of Positional Asphyxia when restraining a person (in prone restraint). There is a risk also in a seated position pushed forward with the chest on or close to the knees, reducing the ability to breath. In simple terms, a subject can stop breathing (i.e. asphyxiate) because of the position they have been held in. Positional Asphyxia is likely to occur when a subject is in a position that interferes with their inhalation and/or exhalation and they cannot move from that position. In relation to COVID-19, that caused severe respiratory distress and in severe cases, there is a possible increased risk of respiratory distress.

#### 4.83 Acute Behavioural Disturbance

When a subject exhibits confused, fearful, agitated, violent psychotic and/or aggressive behaviour, it is a spectrum from mild, to moderate, to severe. Not all signs may be present and to varying severity. There may be no signs exhibited if the subject is exhausted and close to collapse. Subjects with ABD are usually fearful, confused and paranoid. Intoxicated subjects are more likely to be aggressive and not paranoid. Historically, there have been various names for these symptoms – drug induced psychosis or excited delirium. This does not always mean ABD or vice versa. It is not a cause of death. It is an umbrella term for a collection of symptom's and behaviours. **The correct Police and NHS term is Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD).** These outdated terms should not be used when dealing with a subject suffering from ABD.

#### 4.84 Officers and Staff should treat both these conditions as a medical emergency.

4.85 Officers and Staff should read the further guidance on Positional Asphyxia and Acute Behavioural Disturbance which is contained in Appendix E Conflict Management Manual and available on POINT. This appendix also contains information on restraint techniques, monitoring, medical response and transportation of subjects.

4.86 Officers and Staff should also make themselves aware of the LEARN online course 'Acute Behavioural Disturbance' which should be completed prior to attending mandatory PSP refresher training.

**Some officers may be in possession of CS spray and have not yet converted to PAVA TW1000. The previous policy relating to this is available on the Operational and Tactical Development Unit information pages on POINT.**