

## COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

### Use of Force Scrutiny

02 February 2023

<b>Scrutiny Panel:</b>	<b>USE OF FORCE</b>
<b>Members:</b>	<p>Penelope Rowlands</p> <p>Emma Buckley</p> <p>Richard Scholes</p> <p>Robert Spencer</p>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>That the Use of Force policy and procedure has been followed and that Body Worn Video reviewed are compliant with the law and are being used effectively. The panel will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether Body Worn Video policy was adhered to</li> <li>• Whether the Use of Force level used was necessary</li> <li>• Whether the Use of Force level used was proportional to the incident</li> <li>• Is the action/behaviour justified</li> <li>• Has it been explained adequately</li> <li>• Has it been recorded properly</li> </ul> <p>This scrutiny will focus on incidents where a TASER has been drawn or used.</p>
<b>Panel Findings:</b>	<p>The time period selected for the Use of Force (TASER) incidents was from 1 November 2022 to 15 January 2023. Seven incidents were randomly selected by the panel at their pre-meeting held on 19 January 2023.</p> <p>Technical information and support was provided at the scrutiny review by Chris Dawson, Force expert on Taser use.</p> <p><b>The Incidents viewed are outlined in Appendix 1</b></p> <p>STORM logs of the incidents were provided. Panel members were reminded that the STORM log is a live record of events as they happen and indicate calls and information being provided by officers as the incident unfolds. It is not the investigation record. The STORM logs are provided to give some context to the incident leading up to the use of force being deployed and enables panel members to be cognisant of the situation in determining whether the use of force was appropriate in a potentially quickly developing situation. In some cases, Statements were also provided.</p>

Chris Dawson gave an explanation on how he undertakes a scrutiny of each Taser incident. The panel were informed that each Taser firing is recorded and technical information on the taser deployment is available to be downloaded to assist Chris in the scrutiny.

The panel agreed the use of force deployed was appropriate and proportional to the situation.

The panel found no issues and wished to thank Chris Dawson for his comprehensive explanation and responses to their questions. The panel were impressed that a comprehensive review is undertaken after each taser use. They felt the review process was robust and an excellent example of Best Practice.

The panel also wished to commend the conduct of the officer in incident 21220150990 who, when under extreme circumstances behaved in a controlled manner and requested that the officer be made aware.

**Recommendations:**

Requested that the Scrutiny Review form be amended to ask whether the Use of Force is necessary, reasonable and proportional.

**Force Lead Response:**

Every deployment of taser under goes rigorous scrutiny to ensure its use is proportionate, justifiable and necessary. Officers undergo rigorous training which is refreshed on a regular basis to provide confidence in officers deployment of this tactic.

It is pleasing to have external independent confirmation that the use of taser in force is proportionate and necessary and that the internal scrutiny processes we have implemented are deemed sufficiently robust to provide confidence in our use of this use of force tactic.

Chief Inspector Dave Barrow  
Force Lead – Use of Force

## Appendix 1 Matrix of Use of Force Incidents.

Occurrence No.	Date	Tactic Type Used	UOF Necessary?	UOF Proportional?	Description / Comments
21230003880	09/01/2023	Taser – red dotted	Y	Y	Out of Force pursuit of stolen vehicle. 2 CYP. Officer single crewed.
21230003459	07/01/2023	Taser – drawn	Y	Y	Suspect threatened to use a taser. Weapon identified as a toy. No arrest.
21220171712	25/12/2022	Taser	Y	Y	Vehicle pursuit. Stinger used. BWV was unclear whether taser was deployed.
21220162366	06/12/2022	Taser – drawn	Y	Y	Suspect behind bathroom door. Domestic Abuse incident.
21220150990	13/11/2022	Taser – fired and failed PAVA	Y	Y	Violent suspect in parents' home. Suspect is very aggressive with known drugs and mental health history.
21220149615	10/11/2022	Taser – fired	Y	Y	Foot chase of suspect. Suspect brought down but armed himself with a weapon.
21220147432	06/11/2022	Taser – red dotted	Y	Y	Suspect armed with knife in a public place.