

## Decision Note – Taser T10

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### **REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
<b>This decision relates to:</b>	x	x	

#### APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

**Rationale for approval**

**STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**

**Signature**

**Date 29/12/2023**

Date decision required by:

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:


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**For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office only:-**

Decision Number: SCP/D/202324/009
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Date Received: 22/03/2024
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	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Decision Making Policy?	x	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Decision Making Policy?	x	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner		

<b>Title</b>	<b>Taser Decision</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	
<b>Chief Executive</b>	
I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.	
Signature	
	Date <b>29/12/2023</b>

# REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

## 1. Introduction and background

The purpose of the report is to outline a case and funding decision for the change of the current Conducted Energy Device (CED) Taser (X2) used by trained and accredited Staffordshire Police Officers to the new T10 device which is expected to be approved by the Home Office mid to late 2024. The background and reason for this change is outlined below.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Axon (provider of Taser UK) provided formal notification to National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Less Lethal Weapons (LLW) that they will be ending the sale of the X2 Taser (current device) after the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The X2 devices will continue to be supported until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029 meaning the X2 smart cartridges / batteries etc will be available until at least the end of 2029.

Both Axon and the NPCC LLW are in the process of seeking authority from the Secretary of State for authorisation to sell the updated Taser device, (referred to as the T10). The T10 is now available to order with a discounted purchase of 20% if a purchase commitment is made by the end of 2023.

NPCC in 2022 also announced after scientific advice / manufacture guidance that devices over 5 years old should be risk assessed as suitable for operational use and after 7 years devices should be used for training only. Any devices kept after the 7-year period operationally will have to have a specific risk assessment and signed off by the ACC armed portfolio holder to override the risk / operating outside of Axon / NPCC guidance.

We currently have a range of devices purchased in 2018 and 2020.

This means that the first batch of 90 devices reaching 7 years will need replacing in January 2025 with the second batch of 160 reaching 5 years in April 2025.

The T10 device will offer the following benefits;

- The device is docked at the end of each shift which allows the downloading of data to be automatically done daily. This will remove the need for someone to physically download the device every eight weeks.
- The device battery will re-charge in the docking station, (saving money on replacement batteries), although it is expected Axon will build in any lost costs in docking station purchases / software licensing.
- The device has an extended range, (max 45ft compared to X2 range of 25ft). Practically this means that officers can effectively use the device from a greater distance which will allow more time and space to make decisions thereby leading to better outcomes for the public, officer and subject.
- The device will have the capability to fire ten single barbs, rather than two cartridges each containing 2 barbs. The impact of this is that officers will find it easier to place the probes in places on the subject which offer the greatest likelihood of success.

- It will be easier for Taser Officers to achieve probe placements in the leg area. The impact of this is that whilst subjects will still be incapacitated, they will retain some capability to manage their own fall to the ground rather than being subjected to an uncontrolled fall, (which increases the likelihood of secondary injuries, i.e. head injuries).
- An ability to target the legs more efficiently will also reduce the risks of an adverse cardiac event which increase when barbs are placed in the upper chest area.

**2. Issues for consideration**

- Decision sought to replace the current X2 Taser device for the new T10 device.
- Funding decision to purchase all 250 devices whilst there is a value for money opportunity on the 20% discounted prices.

**3. What other options have been considered?**

Taser is the only approved provider of Conducted Energy Device (CED) within the UK

**4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken**

Chief Officer Team

Staffordshire Commissioners Office

T/Chief Supt Talbot – Command Board – Command Business area owner

T/ Supt Derrick – Operations Superintendent

T/CI Dave Kelsall – Chief Inspector Armed Policing

Sgt Mike Elkin – Chief Firearms Instructor

Procurement and commercial team / CRG Board



John Bloomer (FIR board) – Directed to Chief Officer Team (COT)

Chief Taser Instructor (CTI) – Helen Ceresa – Following approval to progress, consultation will progress to the regional CTI to commence consideration around future training delivery, lesson plans and if regional forces operate on different devices.

Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) – To be socialised and briefed following a decision to progress to the change.


**Report Implications**

**5. Monitoring Officer comments:**

Signature 	Date <b>29/12/2023</b>
<b>6. Section 151 Officer comments:</b>	
<p>The Force ask at this point is to raise a purchase order to take advantage of a significant discount being offered by the supplier at the end of 2023 ahead of anticipated Home Office approval in the new year. The draft capital programme (to be presented in January 2024) contains the funding ask for this purchase. Whilst funding will not be spent until 2024 and in line with the draft capital programme ask, for the purposes of good governance this ask is being presented for a commissioner decision outside of the normal budgeting process to take advantage of the discount offered. The offered discount is in the region of a quarter of the overall purchase cost. As an addition to the capital programme the impact on the revenue budget is in the region of £100k per annum for the next 10 years and will require offsetting savings to be found by the Force to fund within the overall budget envelope.</p> <p>The impact on public and officer safety is well made out in the business case, and value for money should also be seen in this context.</p>	
Signature 	Date 29/12/2023

	Yes	No
Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?		No
<b>7. Legal Comments:</b> Nothing applicable or relevant to the business case		
<b>8. Equality Comments</b> – Please attach the completed EIA		
<b>9. Background/supporting paper –</b>		
<b>Please answer the following questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>10. Public access to information?</b>	Yes – Following commercial /procurement review and necessary redactions	
<b>11. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)</b>		NO
<b>12. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)</b>	Yes – Until Commercial review / redactions	
<b>13. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note)</b>	Yes – Commercial pricing – costs within original decision paper.	

**14. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

<b>Author</b>	T/Chief Inspector David Kelsall
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> December 2023



## Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of this EIA is to ensure you consider any equality issues as part of your decision making when developing / reviewing your policy / procedure.

Please complete the sections below and send to the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office to be quality assured. New / revised policies cannot be published on the policy database until the EIA has passed the quality assurance process.

<b>Title of policy/procedure:</b>	Change of Taser device
<b>Department:</b>	Staffordshire Police - Operations
<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> December 2023

### 1. Identify the aims and purpose of the policy

There is not a policy change as part of this process. The decision is for a change of Taser device.

### 2. Identify the individuals and organisations who are likely to have an interest in, or be affected by the policy.

The following are likely to be interested in the decision to change Taser devices.

Home Office

IOPC

Staffordshire Police Performance and Standard unit

Members of the public

Staffordshire Police Officers and members of Police Staff

**3. Data**

Summarise the findings of any monitoring data / information which you have considered regarding the impact of this policy on people from all or any of the protected groups. This could include national or local data.

Nothing which relates to the change of Taser device.

**3.1 Age**

There is no impact or changes to age.

**3.2 Disability**

There is no impact or changes to disability.

**3.3 Race**

There is no impact or changes to race.

**3.4 Religion or Belief**

There is no impact or changes to religion of belief.

**3.5 Sex**

There is no impact or changes to sex.

**3.6 Sexual Orientation**

There is no impact or changes to sexual orientation.

**3.7 Transgender**

There is no impact or changes to transgender.

**4. Research**

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy for all or any of the protected groups. This could include information you have obtained from other sources e.g. Home Office.

**4.1 Age** – The use and sign off of any new device would be completed and monitored by the Home Office and National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). There is nothing in the change of device which would impact age.

**4.2 Disability**

As per the above



<p><b>4.3 Race</b></p> <p>As per the above</p>
<p><b>4.4 Religion or Belief</b></p> <p>As per the above</p>
<p><b>4.5 Sex</b></p> <p>As per the above</p>
<p><b>4.6 Sexual Orientation</b></p> <p>As per the above</p>
<p><b>4.7 Transgender</b></p> <p>As per the above</p>
<p><b>5. Consultation</b></p> <p>Summarise the opinions of any consultation for all or any of the protected groups. Who was consulted and how e.g. survey, discussion, forum. If there was no consultation please justify why.</p>
<p><b>5.1 Age</b></p> <p>As part of the national approval of any new device / technology the Home Office and NPCC would ensure all relevant engagement and consultation would have taken place as part of the project. There is nothing which has been done specifically for Staffordshire or anything which would impact age.</p>
<p><b>5.2 Disability</b></p> <p>As per above</p>
<p><b>5.3 Race</b></p> <p>As per above</p>
<p><b>5.4 Religion or Belief</b></p> <p>As per above</p>
<p><b>5.5 Sex</b></p> <p>As per above</p>
<p><b>5.6 Sexual Orientation</b></p> <p>As per above</p>

**5.7 Transgender**

As per above

**6. Conclusions**

Considering the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

**6.1 Age**

Whilst this decision is for a change of device and not policy, the new Taser device brings technological advances, daily automated downloading of data so will support in bringing greater confidence in the devices monitoring and help build trust and confidence within our communities in the proportionate and necessary uses of Taser as a less lethal option.

**6.2 Disability**

As per the above

**6.3 Race**

As per the above

**6.4 Religion or Belief**

As per the above

**6.5 Sex**

As per the above

**6.6 Sexual Orientation**

As per the above

**6.7 Transgender**

As per the above

**7. Decisions**

If the policy will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how the policy will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy needs to be objectively justified.

No change in policy and not applicable. There is also no negative impact on our communities as a result of a change in device.

**8. Monitoring arrangements**

If the policy is new what consideration has been given to piloting the policy?

If monitoring is not already in place what arrangements have been made to monitor the effects of the policy on equality and diversity?

With Taser being the only approved CED less lethal option in UK policing it continues to be subject to well embedded and ongoing monitoring, scrutiny and review to ensure its proportionate and necessary use.

Equally there is keen public interest to monitor the use of taser within their communities and ensure any use or disproportionate use is appropriately scrutinised / reviewed and where necessary officers held to account.

**This equality impact assessment will be published on the SC website.**

EIA Form Dated  
01/08/2018