



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 27 February 2014

TASER

1. Purpose

This paper is intended to provide an update on the extended use of TASER in Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The board are invited to note the contents of this paper.

3. TASER use in Cambridgeshire

3.1 Since the use of TASER was extended beyond authorised firearms officers in Cambridgeshire in May 2013 there have been in the 8 months to the end of the year:

- 309 authorisations for the use of TASER given by accredited senior officers.
- 55 uses of TASER (A use of TASER including any action beyond the officer deploying to an incident with the unit and includes showing the TASER, pointing the TASER and deploying the red dot laser sight).
- 9 discharges of TASER.

3.2 These figures are given against a total number of 55,154 immediate and prompt grade incidents being recorded in the same period.

3.3 This illustrates that of the number of immediate and prompt graded incidents recorded by the constabulary only 0.56% received an authorisation for the deployment of TASER trained officers. Of the authorisations only approx. 17% translated into any form of use and only approx. 3% of authorisations resulted in a discharge of the unit.

3.4 This would demonstrate that the level of deployment is not excessive and that training has been well understood by officers.

4. Media and Public Response

4.1 Overall the media reaction to the extended use of TASER was positive. The media opportunities that the force offered were well received and attended.

4.2 The force recognises that there is a wider debate about the impact of TASER upon Human Rights and that there is opposition in some areas to the extended use project. However on balance the overall public reception across the county has been positive.

5. Governance

5.1 The governance of the use of TASER is aligned with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire through the Joint Protective Services Directorate where the operational and training lead for TASER in Cambridgeshire represents the Constabulary.

5.2 Risks are managed centrally through these meetings and Cambridgeshire specific risks would be escalated to the force executive if required. No risks have been so raised during this period.

5.3 The training and deployment of the extended use of TASER officers within Cambridgeshire is fully compliant with all College of Policing guidance.

6. Conclusions

6.1 The extended use of TASER has now become business as usual for the Constabulary.

6.2 The extension of TASER deployment brings Cambridgeshire into line with the majority of forces nationally who have also extended the use to non-authorised firearms officers.

6.3 There have been no significant issues of risk highlighted by the roll out to date.