



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 10 November 2016

Police Use of Force

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the police use of force in Cambridgeshire as a result of a commissioning request from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

- 1.2 The report also sets out the work underway with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary to implement new National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) recording requirements and address recommendations arising from a national report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) on the police use of force.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report and consider whether further updates are required.
- 2.2 Future requests for updates are timetabled in line with those being provided to the BCH Health and Safety Board (next meeting end of September 2016) or (January 2017, if six-monthly would suffice).

- 2.3 The OPCC reviews it's attendance at the PSD review meetings which provide a forum for scrutinising cases where force is used resulting in public complaints.

3. Background

3.1 Arrangements for monitoring use of force in Cambridgeshire

The recording and monitoring of use of force by officers in Cambridgeshire is well established. Until recently, governance was provided by the People Board via the Force Health and Safety Group (chaired by the then Head of Human Resources) which in turn received reports from the Use of Force Monitoring Group.

The Cambridgeshire Use of Force Monitoring Group continues to meet but, with the introduction this year of a Tri-Force Health and Safety Board (chaired by Bedfordshire DCC Collins) changes to governance across the three forces are now being made. Mr Collins is providing chief officer leadership across the three forces, supported in Cambridgeshire by C/Supt Skeels (as chair of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Health and Safety Group). ACC Malik will be chairing a quarterly Force Board from this autumn to provide further oversight in this area. This new governance structure is improving the efficiency with which decisions affecting collaborated units and the three forces are being made, whilst helping to ensure that processes converge. Discussions about a single policy and procedure document across the forces are underway.

The current arrangements for monitoring use of force are based on the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) Guidance on Personal Safety Training (2009) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Personal Safety Manual (2012), both of which are still current.

Membership of the Cambridgeshire Use of Force Monitoring Group comprises representatives of local policing, Professional Standards Department (PSD), Learning and Development, Health and Safety, Corporate Performance, insurance services and the staff associations. The forum allows information about trends or wider lessons learnt to be shared, and for example then prioritised by the training team.

Police use of force is defined in Section 3.1.1 of the NPIA Guidance as *“Where a member of staff uses a tactical option to manage conflict. This includes occasions where equipment has been drawn but not otherwise used”*. (Tactical options are set out in the ACPO Personal Safety Manual, and adopted for training by each force. They include, for example, use of ground pins, open hand strikes, and use of handcuffs.) Requirements currently specifically exclude the use of *“Tactical Communication, escort position and compliant handcuffing”* and these are not therefore currently recorded. (This position will be changing as set out in section 3 below.) Any use of force is therefore recorded, whether before, during or after an arrest or when no arrest is in fact made. Officers record their use of force using an e-form on the CamNet Vision intranet site.

Student officers, as part of their initial training, are trained in all the communication, control and restraint modules over nine days. Police staff receive training specific to

their role. Subsequently all officers and staff undergo an annual competency check against aspects of these modules.¹

The use of TASERs, other firearms, and deployment of police dogs are all uses of force, but are currently monitored through the Firearms Steering Group and Joint Protective Services management (for the latter). The force has representatives at both strategic and tactical levels to monitor use and disseminate learning. (The work set out at section 3 will also cause this to change.)

The deployment of Firearms is in line with National Guidance contained within the Authorised Professional Practice (APP). All firearms incidents are overseen by a suitably trained firearms commander.

See appendix B for National and Cambridgeshire Statistics.

3.2 Management information

Use of force data is part of the corporate suite of management information on CORA.² Extracts from the report ending May 2016 are provided at Appendix A showing the number of records created each month and data relating to gender, age and ethnicity. This data is reviewed quarterly by the Monitoring Group and all of these data sets on this summary page have been scrutinised in detail of the last 12 months either as a result of variances or an action from another group.

In terms of gender for example, a consistent difference in reasons for officers having to use force has been noted, along with differences in the aggravating features recorded. This has been fed back into training to help officers differentiate and anticipate threats better.

The number of reports relating to youngsters under 15 has been low each month, but in line with our focus on protecting the vulnerable, each report has been reviewed for appropriateness by the Lead Officer Safety Trainer. No concerns were identified.

In terms of ethnicity, at the request of the Ethics, Equality and Inclusion Board, the Use of Force Monitoring Group reviewed the proportionality of people being subject to force. Drawing any firm conclusions by comparing records (which include people who travel into Cambridgeshire to commit crime) against census population data is difficult, but, to the extent that analysis is possible, no concerns were identified (again the Force will be better placed to review this following the changes outlined in section 3).

Some management data is available at policing area level, (e.g. the number of reports in each policing area each month) but the recording system currently in use does not allow for reports to be plotted on a map.

¹ More detail about the content of these modules is available via this link to a redacted copy of the Personal Safety Manual on the NPCC website:

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/FoI%20publication/Disclosure%20Logs/Uniformed%20Operations%20FOI/2013/003%2013%20Att%2001%20of%2015%20Police%20Officer%20Safety%20Manual%20Module%201.pdf>.

² Link : <http://camnetvision.r.cambspolice.net/cora/media/documents/MMI.xlsm>.

4. Emerging work streams

- 4.1 In October 2014, the Home Secretary tasked Chief Constable Shaw (on behalf of the NPCC) with undertaking a national review of use of force recording and monitoring practices, and implementing changes to improve transparency and accountability. The scope of the review included TASER use, and use of police dogs and horses, which were previously subject to separate recording requirements. As a result new recording requirements will be introduced nationally this October. Police use of force will be included in the Home Office Annual Data Return (ADR) requirement from 2018.
- 4.2 In March 2016, the IPCC published a national report on the police use of force which makes 20 recommendations to forces and other bodies (including PCCs).³
- The recommendations overlap with the work already underway through the NPCC, but extend beyond recording and monitoring into training, complaints and public scrutiny, and developing best practice.
- 4.3 Liaison between lead officers and stakeholders in Learning and Development, ICT, JPS and PSD has established a willingness to adopt a single recording process and co-ordinate activity to address the IPCC recommendations across the three forces in the interests of efficiency and to develop a consistent approach for staff.
- 4.4 A three force working group has been convened and an initial meeting held on 7th June and is reporting in to the BCH Health and Safety Board chaired by DCC Collins. The group will meet monthly to review progress and co-ordinate activity so that all forces can meet the revised NPCC recording arrangements to be introduced in October 2016. The IPCC has not published a timetable in respect of implementation of its recommendations, but the working group will be able to demonstrate incremental progress when an update is requested.
- 4.5 In June 2016 the Force Executive Board received an exceptional report for information on these requirements and the work to adopt them.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report and consider whether further updates are required.
- 5.2 Future requests for updates are timetabled in line with those being provided to the BCH Health and Safety Board (next meeting end of September 2016) or (January 2017, if six-monthly would suffice).
- 5.3 The OPCC reviews it's attendance at the PSD review meetings which provide a forum for scrutinising cases where force is used resulting in public complaints.

³ https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/IPCC_Use_Of_Force_Report.pdf

Contact Officers	C/Supt Vicky Skeels, Strategic Lead. Inspector Chris Savage, Tactical Lead and Chair, Constabulary Use of Force Monitoring Group Chair, BCH Use of Force Working Group.
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Appendix A – Summary sheet from the Corporate Performance data set

Data showing the number of records per month and the gender, age and ethnicity of people subject to force in Cambridgeshire.

	May to Jul 15	Aug to Oct 15	Nov 15 to Jan 16	Feb to May 16	Rolling 12
Number of Use of Force forms submitted	758	699	782	942	2,908
Person Gender					
- Male	607	525	618	701	2,234
- Female	151	174	164	241	674
Person Age					
Under 15	8	29	16	13	66
15-24	247	250	277	309	979
25-35	289	258	292	336	1,082
Over 35	138	162	197	284	781
Person Ethnicity					
- Asian	26	11	17	16	58
- Black	32	20	33	45	113
- Mixed	22	15	23	21	70
- Other	6	5	3	6	17
- White	638	614	673	822	2,527
- Unknown	34	34	33	32	123



Appendix B: Use of Taser and Firearms

Police use of Taser statistics, England and Wales, 2015

The Home Office published the latest official statistics on police use of Taser in England and Wales.

The release includes a breakdown of the 7 types of Taser use: drawn, aimed, arced, red-dot, drive stun, angled drive stun and fired.

In 2015 there were 10,329 uses of Taser by police representing a 2% (234) increase from the previous year.

Discharge

Of the 10,329 Taser uses, 19% (1,921) were discharges which was a decrease of 3% (-68) from the previous year.

Of the 1,921 discharges, 90% (1,730) were fired and 10% (191) were drive stun and angled drive stun.

The proportion of discharges decreased by one percentage point to 19% when compared with the previous year.

Non-discharge

Of the 10,329 uses of Taser, 81% (8,408) were non-discharges; an increase of 4% (303) from the previous year.

Red-dot was the most common use and accounted for 51% (5,238) of the total use in 2015.

The proportion of non-discharges (81%) increased by one percentage point when compared with the previous year.

'Police use of Taser' statistics, England and Wales, 2015 is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/use-of-taser-statistics>.

Cambridgeshire Taser Uses

	2013 (85% of Taser use NON discharge)	2014 (87% of Taser use NON discharge)	2015 (93% of Taser use NON-discharge)
Recorded use	51	47	60
'Red Dot'	32	30	39
Drawn	9	8	14
Aimed	2	3	3
Discharged	8	6	4

Cambridgeshire Firearms Deployments

	Spontaneous Firearms	Planned Firearms OPS	Animal Destruction
2014	224	64	9
2015	265	59	6
2016 (ytd)	220	34	3

During this period there has only been one deployment/ discharge of weapon that has resulted in a fatality. This was in October 2015 and is subject to an IPCC investigation. This is known as Op Parnwell.