



POLICY	Issue: 2.0
Conflict Management : Use of Less Lethal Options	Date: 01/07/2009

Policy Statement

The term 'Less Lethal Options' is used to indicate weapons, devices and tactics, the design and intention of which, is to induce compliance in pursuit of a legitimate aim by the Police without a substantial risk of serious or permanent injury or death to the subject on whom they are applied. In other words, the desired effect is to control and then neutralise a threat without recourse to lethal use of force. Whilst the actual outcome may, on occasions, be lethal, this is less likely than as a result of the use of firearms.

Constabulary Officers are required to justify any use of force, showing that it was proportionate and legal, and that there was, at the time, an absolute necessity, particularly where potentially lethal force is used.

Constabulary Officers will deploy a range of less lethal technologies using the most appropriate response to any given situation. These include negotiation, physical restraint, batons, deployment of police dogs and use of incapacitant sprays, baton launchers or conducted energy devices (TASER). Such technologies do not constitute a hierarchy of lawful force and should be viewed as a range of approved options from which the most proportionate and appropriate should be selected, according to circumstances, in order to meet the obligations set out above. More than one technology may be deployed in a given conflict situation.

For the use of a Taser as a less lethal option, CNC Officers will follow the national policy for the deployment of Taser as outlined within the ACPO Policy and Guidance for Authorised Firearms Officers, December 2008. This states the following principles for authorising Taser deployment:

"Taser will be deployed in circumstances where Firearms Officers are authorised to carry firearms, or

where the Authorising Officer has reason to suppose that they, in the course of their duty, may have to protect the public, themselves and/or the subjects at incidents of violence or threats of violence of such severity that they will have to use force".

Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to inform and support the Constabulary's decision making in relation to training, operational deployment and use of less lethal technologies.

The policy allows Authorising Officers to deploy Taser as a less lethal option in situations that do not fulfil the criteria for the issue of firearms.

The availability or deployment of the Taser should not be considered as a replacement for conventional firearms should the relevant criteria for issue of firearms be met.

Document Reference	CNC/POL/9.4	Page 1 of 2
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The Policy meets the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO / ACPOS) belief that extending the range of options available is likely to provide the most appropriate response to any given situation. This is supported by the Constabulary Threat and Risk Assessment which encourages the deployment of less lethal options.

Nothing in this policy overrides the Right to Life.

This policy is enacted by the following management system documents:

- CNC/POL/8.2 Personal Safety Policy
- CNC/POL/9.4.2 Police Use of Dogs Policy
- CNC/POL/9.4.3 Body Armour Policy
- CNC/PP/0045 Principles of Police Duty and Service Requirements
- CNC/PP/0418 TASER (Conducted Energy Devices) Procedures

Document Reference	CNC/POL/9.4	Page 2 of 2
Uncontrolled when printed unless subject to controlled issue. Refer to Policies Index for current version.		
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