



<b>POLICY</b>	<b>Issue: 1.0</b>
<b>Driving Standards</b>	<b>Date: 11/06/2008</b>

## Policy Statement

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (The Constabulary) is committed to road and driver safety both for its officers conducting vehicle patrols and for its staff when travelling on Constabulary business. For those officers who undertake vehicle patrols the Constabulary will seek to develop driving practices so that users of roads, highways and other routes patrolled by those Constabulary officers have confidence in their driving skills, abilities and behaviours.

In order that these are achieved the Constabulary will:

- Through training and supervision, ensure that drivers of police vehicles, and vehicles being used on behalf of the Constabulary by Civil Nuclear Police Authority employees, set a good example at all times to both colleagues and members of the public, whilst maintaining the high standards of personal responsibility and expectations required by the service.
- Recognise its duty of care to staff and those carried in police vehicles during the course of police business, and will ensure that only staff who have the appropriate driving licence, and are trained and tested to the appropriate level will be permitted to drive vehicles.
- Comply with Nuclear Site requirements.
- Ensure Police Officers and staff that drive police vehicles comply with all legal obligations defined by The Road Traffic Act 1988 and associated criminal law. Further all employees will ensure that their driving behaviour complies with the obligations of the Human Rights Act 1998, in that all conduct must be legal, proportionate and necessary with regards to the objectives of the policing activity in which the member of staff is engaged.
- Ensure drivers use only vehicles which are mechanically safe and sound, and to this affect all drivers will carry out and record vehicle safety checks on vehicles, as required and determined by the Constabulary. All employees must be aware of and implement Health and Safety at Work legislation and practical measures designed to protect and minimise the risk and harm to themselves, colleagues and other road users.

Under certain circumstances police drivers may forego having to comply with traffic legislation, in order to meet emergency situations effectively. To do this they are able to make use of police vehicle aids such as Blue Lights and Sirens. Stepping outside the normal driving constraints brings considerably greater risk, and so as to minimise this risk, officers need to be trained to a higher standard. In order to authorise and manage this, the Constabulary will:

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- Ensure that officers whilst driving, using Blue Lights and or Sirens, or stepping outside normal Traffic Legislation in an emergency situation, will have received training and attained a pass in the National Police Driving Qualification Standards, at Standard driving level, will maintain this qualification by re-testing in the period specified by the Constabulary, and will have obtained authority from the Constabulary authorising them to override traffic laws. (Nothing precludes any officer using a police vehicle's blue lights or siren whilst stationary, at the scene of an incident for safety reasons, protecting the scene.).
- Officers having obtained Constabulary authority to override traffic law remain liable and culpable for their driving standards, and must have a justifiable reason for overriding any traffic law, including exceeding speed limits and traffic signals.
- Ensure that officers receive the required training and attain the required qualification, so as to perform specific roles or specialist duties (e.g. surveillance and pursuit)
- Aspire to train all Operational Officers to Standard Qualification level.

### **Aims of the Policy**

To ensure that the Constabulary maintains the highest standards of driving and vehicle roadworthiness, so that risk and injuries are minimised, whilst at the same time providing the training and qualifications for officers to respond safely and professionally to emergency situations.

This policy is enacted by the following management system documents:

CNC/POL/17.3.1                      Police pursuits

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