



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Operational Use of Taser Version 3 - November 2008

PPP note.... This is a precis of the ACPO guidelines **NOTE section 4.5**

by Authorised Firearms Officers

3.2 ACPO considers that Taser may be issued alongside other existing personal safety tactical options. If justifiable and necessary it could be selected and used by trained officers facing violence or **threats of violence of such severity** that they will need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s)

4.2 The following principles will apply in respect to authority to deploy Taser:

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 subject(s) at incidents of violence or **threats of violence of such severity that they will need to use force.**

4.5 No individual will be voluntarily subjected to the effects of Taser under any circumstances.

5.3.1 Taser discharges are only required to be referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) if the discharge:

- resulted in death or serious injury;
- caused danger to the public, or
- **revealed failings in command.**

FME Report Persons Tasered should be examined by a Forensic Medical Examiner (FME)

6.3 Taser Evaluation Forms will be completed on every occasion where Taser is used in a policing operation. (See Appendix H)

8.2 Occasions will arise where it is necessary to use the Taser on a person who is exhibiting violent behaviour and who is also suffering from a mental disorder or illness.

Where it is possible to discuss options with mental health professionals, this should be considered.

8.9 The normal reaction of a person exposed to the discharge of a Taser is the loss of some voluntary muscle control resulting in the subject falling to the ground or 'freezing' on the spot. For this reason **there is clearly a possibility of some secondary injury to the tasered subject, caused by falling and striking a hard surface. In this regard the risk of concussive brain injury as a result of the head hitting a rigid surface is considered especially pertinent.** Particular attention should therefore be paid to the immediate environment and to assessing any additional risk factors. This issue will be particularly relevant where the subject is located at some height above the ground where there is increased risk from a fall.