

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>SPA Police Performance Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>9 December 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>TASER Roll Out Update</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>ACC Williams, Operational Support</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Noting</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>Appendix A – Breakdown of Taser Use on persons under 18</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to update members on the progress of the extended roll out of Taser within Police Scotland, with specific reference to the use of Taser on persons under the age of 18.

Members are invited to note the information contained within this report.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In January 2021, the Police Scotland Strategic Leadership Board approved a new operating model for Taser across Scotland. This included an increase to the number of officers trained in Taser over the next three years from around 500 to around 2000 officers. The new operating model was subject to extensive consultation and was thereafter presented to the Scottish Police Authority Policing Performance Committee on the 1 September 2021.
- 1.2 During the meeting on 1 September, further information was requested by the committee around any potential impact on the use of Taser on children. Subsequently a letter was sent to the Chair of the Committee from ACC Mark Williams, outlining these impacts. The information contained within the letter is also outlined in this report with some additional statistics.

## **2. UPDATE ON INCREASE - TASER TRAINED OFFICERS**

- 2.1 Since 1 September 2021, 112 additional officers have been trained in Taser and deployed in possession of the device across Scotland. It is planned that a further 185 officers will be trained before the end of this financial year (31 March 2022), bringing the total number of deployable officers in trained in Taser across the country to approximately 820. These officers will deploy from 87 response hubs across Scotland
- 2.2 As previously stated, to support the increase in officers, a local and national communications and engagement plan was implemented. This involved Local Policing Commanders engaging with their Local Scrutiny Committees providing further information and detail around the impact of this change in their local communities. Nationally, a number of engagement and information sessions were undertaken which resulted in feedback and further development of the Police Scotland Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment with regards to the use of Taser.
- 2.3 As a result of these engagement sessions, a number of advocacy groups have agreed to take part in a Taser Advisory Group where they will review, advise and provide valuable oversight and interaction with Police Scotland and our use of Taser.

### **3 UPDATE ON THE USE OF TASER**

- 3.1 Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, officers in possession of Taser were deployed to 853 incidents. This resulted in 347 uses (116 draw 180 pointed and 51 discharges of the device). This included 13 uses (5 draw, 6 pointed and 2 discharges of the device) on persons under the age of 18.
- 3.2 Since 1 April 2021, officers in possession of Taser across Police Scotland have been deployed to 1,370 incidents. This has resulted in 238 uses (95 draw, 100 pointed and 43 discharges of the device). This includes 20 uses (5 draw, 13 pointed, 2 discharges of the device) on persons under the age of 18.
- 3.3 To date, Taser use during this financial year has increased by 7 uses on those under the age of 18 years compared to last financial year. This is predominantly due to an increase in deployable Taser trained officers this financial year compared to last. In comparison to the previous years, in 2018-19 there were 12 uses with no discharges to those under the age of 18 years. In 2019-20 there were 9 uses with no discharges to those under the age of 18 years.
- 3.4 The overall position with regards to those under the age of 18 years, since the introduction of Taser to Police Scotland in 2018, has resulted in the device being used (drawn or pointed) on 54 occasions, including discharging on 4 occasions against those under the age of 18 years. A full breakdown can be found in Appendix A. It should be noted that although the device has been used 54 times on persons under 18, 24 of these uses were draws only where the device was not pointed at the child. In respect of discharges, one 15 year old, one 16 year old and two 17 year olds were involved. These discharges were referred to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner who reported they were satisfied the use of the device was appropriate and proportionate.
- 3.5 Taser use on under 18's accounts for under 5% of all uses and under 2% of all discharges.

### **4 POLICE SCOTLAND POLICY**

- 4.1 Police Scotland has no specific policy on the use of Taser involving children under the age of 18 years. Any use of Taser must meet Police Scotland's criteria for the use of force in that it must be

## **OFFICIAL**

proportionate, legal, accountable, absolutely necessary and ethical. Each use is assessed on the particular circumstances of the incident and threat being faced by the officer or public. It would be impossible during a violent and volatile situation, where life could be at risk, for officers to distinguish between someone who is, for example, 16 or 18 years of age. It is vital that the threat and risk posed is the primary consideration.

- 4.2 The Taser X2 has been subject of rigorous independent medical testing. It is acknowledged that there is an increased risk to children and person's with a smaller stature and these increased risks are thoroughly covered within the training to officers around the use of Taser.
- 4.3 The National Taser Unit has engaged with Police Scotland's Children & Young People Strategy Unit which has resulted in specific engagement sessions with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice who work for improvement in youth justice. A specific engagement session with the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities/Scottish Network for Reduction of Restrictive Practices (SNRRP), who work around restraint on children and young people, was also held. These groups have agreed to become part of the Taser Advisory Group.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications with this paper

### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications with this paper

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

### **8. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Taser has been successfully deployed across Scotland since 2018 without reputational implications for Police Scotland.

**9. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no social implications.

**10. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

10.1 The community implications are being addressed through the delivery of the communication and engagement plan, engagement sessions and the implementation of the Taser Advisory Group.

**11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EQHRIA) is in place and will be updated on a regular basis to ensure the positions of advocacy groups and the Taser Advisory Group are noted, included and where possible mitigated.

**12. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no environmental implications.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to note the information contained within this report.

Year	Ethnicity	Gender	Age	Date	LA	Taser Use	Prime Tactical Use	Self Harm	Subject Injury	Weapon	PIRC Review	
2018	W1	Male	15	04/09/2018	Highland	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Female	15	17/10/2018	Shetland Islands	Drawn	Protect Public	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	13	26/10/2018	City of Edinburgh	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	17	28/10/2018	City of Edinburgh	Aimed	Protect Public	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	A2	Male	16	15/11/2018	City of Edinburgh	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Glass Bottle	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	16	16/11/2018	East Renfrewshire	Drawn	Protect Public	No	No	Axe	Non Investigation	
2019	W1	Male	17	20/01/2019	City of Edinburgh	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Wooden Pole	Non Investigation	
	B9	Male	17	23/01/2019	Glasgow City Council	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Knives	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	16	01/02/2019	City of Edinburgh	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Knife & Knucle	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	16	19/02/2019	South Lanarkshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	M9	Male	17	10/03/2019	Angus	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Bottle	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	17	30/03/2019	East Renfrewshire	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	15	19/04/2019	West Lothian	Aimed	Protect Self	No	No	Glass Bottle	Non Investigation	
	W1	Female	14	04/06/2019	Glasgow City Council	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	15	16/06/2019	North Lanarkshire	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	13	23/06/2019	Dumfries & Galloway	Red Dot	Protect Public	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	15	24/06/2019	Dundee	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	ceramic	Non Investigation	
	2020	W1	Male	12	13/01/2020	Glasgow City Council	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Bat with nails protruding	Non Investigation
		W1	Male	16	15/01/2020	South Lanarkshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
		W1	Female	15	23/02/2020	Glasgow City Council	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation
W1		Male	16	24/03/2020	Dunfermline	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	Yes (Self Inflicted)	Knife	Non Investigation	
W1		Male	17	07/04/2020	Larbert	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Machete	Non Investigation	
W1		Male	17	28/05/2020	Inverclyde	Discharged	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation (Proportionate Discharge)	
W1		Male	15	22/06/2020	North Lanarkshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
W1		Male	12	12/07/2020	Dumfries & Galloway	Drawn	Protect Public	No	No	Alleged knife	Non Investigation	
W1		Female	12	22/08/2020	Glasgow City Council	Drawn	Protect Public	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
W1		Male	17	02/09/2020	East Ayrshire	Red Dot	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
W1		Male	16	03/10/2020	North Lanarkshire	Discharged	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation (Proportionate Discharge)	
W1		Male	17	15/10/2020	Dumfries & Galloway	Red Dot	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
2021		W1	Male	15	08/01/2021	City of Edinburgh	Aimed	Protect Self	No	No	Claw Hammer	Non Investigation
	W1	Female	17	24/01/2021	South Ayrshire	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Female	16	12/02/2021	Falkirk	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	15	08/03/2021	North Lanarkshire	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Female	16	29/03/2021	Fife	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	16	16/05/2021	West Lothian	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	17	19/05/2021	North Ayrshire	Aimed	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	15	31/05/2021	North Ayrshire	Red Dot	Protect Public	No	No	None	Non Investigation	
	W1	Male	12	01/06/2021	West Lothian	Aimed	Protect Public	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation	

	W1	Male	16	09/06/2021	Fife	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	16	22/06/2021	East Renfrewshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Bottle	Non Investigation
	W1	Female	16	23/06/2021	West Lothian	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	17	27/06/2021	City of Edinburgh	Aimed	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	15	30/06/2021	Glasgow City Council	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Machete	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	16	05/07/2021	West Lothian	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	17	24/07/2021	Glasgow City Council	Discharged	Protect self	No	No	None	Non Investigation (Proportionate Discharge)
	W1	Male	17	20/08/2021	Glasgow City Council	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	16	02/10/2021	East Renfrewshire	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Hammer	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	14	08/10/2021	North Lanarkshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	15	08/10/2021	East Renfrewshire	Red Dot	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	17	17/10/2021	Cowdenbeath	Red Dot	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knives	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	16	18/10/2021	North Lanarkshire	Drawn	Prevent Harm	Yes	No	Knife	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	15	31/10/2021	East Renfrewshire	Discharged	Protect Public	No	No	Knife	Non Investigation (Proportionate Discharge)
	W1	Female	16	01/11/2021	City of Edinburgh	Drawn	Protect Self	No	No	None	Non Investigation
	W1	Male	16	06/11/2021	East Lothian	Drawn	Protect Public	Yes	Yes (Self Inflicted)	Knife	Non Investigation

Ethnicity	
W1	White British
M9	Any other mixed black background
A2	Asian Pakistani
B9	Any other black background

Taser Use
Drawn
Aimed
Arced
Red Dot
Discharged
Drive Stun

Prime Tactical Use	
Protect Self	Protect Police Officer
Protect Public	Protect members of the Public
Prevent Harm	Protect the subject from Self-Harming