

GWENT POLICE

FIREARMS POLICY



1.0 Aims of Policy

The aim of this policy is:-

- to identify SOPs for the issue and use of Police Firearms and Less Lethal Options.
- to cover Post Incident Procedure, Training and Health and Safety.
- to provide officers and police staff who may be called upon to deal with incidents involving the police use of firearms with the knowledge and information necessary for them to safely and effectively resolve incidents thereby maintaining public safety and preventing crime.
- to ensure the justification and proportionality of actions; to follow the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

Gwent Police Firearms Policy uses as its formative basis the ACPO Manual of Guidance on the Police use of Firearms. Local standard operating procedures have been developed to manage Police Firearms Response and Post Incident Procedures.

The scope of this policy also includes standard operating procedures for selection, training, refresher training and where necessary the accreditation of critical staff such as Gold, Silver and Bronze commanders.

This policy and standard operating procedures will seek to comply with all necessary legislation and national documentation.

Standard Operating Procedures can be found on the Force Firearms web site as follows:-

http://intranet/support/uniform_ops/osd/firearms/

Associated link

<http://www.westmercia.police.uk/publications/acpopoliceuseoffirearms.htm>

PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE.

2.0 The Legal Basis

- Sec 117 PACE
- Common Law
- Sec 3 Criminal Law Act
- UN ECHR
- Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement
- See Manual of Guidance - sec 1 or 2

Legitimate Aims :-

- National Sec Public Safety Prevention of Disorder of Crime Protection of the Rights of Others

3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance

The policy has been checked for compliance with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts: the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme

This policy should aims to comply with the organisations Welsh language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the language scheme.

5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

6.0 Identification Section

Policy Title: Firearms

Reference: 131-1 a issue 3

Underlying Procedures: Firearms Standard Operating Procedures
National Firearms Training Curriculum
Post Incident Procedures

ACPO LEAD: ACC

Service Area Owner: Operational Support

Department Responsible: Armed response Unit

Links to other Policies/Procedure: ACPO Manual of Guidance Police Use of Firearms, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Information Security, Canine Defence Shield, CHIS, Crime Recording, Direction and Control Complaints, Forensic Recovery of Firearms, Hate Crime, Interpreters, Lay Observers, management of Vehicle Pursuits, Media, National Intelligence Model, Operation Orders, Osman Warnings, Personal and Operational Safety, Professional Standards Reporting, Race Equality Scheme, Searching of Premises, Stop and Search, Sudden Deaths, Surveillance, Taking of Forensic Samples, Victim Support Referral, Vulnerable and Intimidate Witnesses.

Policy Implementation Date: OPG 5th June 2007 reviewed August 09

Policy Review Date: Two Years from review