

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



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For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	23.03.17.
Ref*:	2017.023

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: Taser – Deployment to Nottinghamshire Police Officers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In September 2016 Supt McFarlane conducted a review of Taser deployment across Nottinghamshire, at the request of the Chief Constable.

Conclusion of the review

There are clear benefits in amending Taser deployment for the safety of the public, safety of officers and reducing the risk of injury to suspects included within those benefits are:

- Taser will be deployed far quicker to incidents; reducing the risk of serious injury or death occurring at them;
- Reduced risk to injury for officers when attending incidents involving edged weapons;
- Reduced risk of injury to suspects when being arrested. Taser is highly effective as a show of force, achieving compliance in most situations without discharge. Even when discharged, it is less likely to cause injury than a baton strike;
- Increased capability to deal with a terrorist incident involving determined attack with edged weapons;
- Reduced delays in operations to arrest suspects identified as potentially violent or where Taser support is required;
- Risks currently identified at shift changeover times and caused by simultaneous incidents are removed;
- Geographical cover is significantly improved;
- Risks associated with high speed & distance response journeys are significantly reduced;
- It will free up EMOpSS resources across the region, giving greater capacity to respond to firearms incidents;
- Reduced mileage & fuel costs to EMOpSS vehicles;
- Reduced inefficiencies caused by EMOpSS units providing extra attendance at incidents that could be resolved by response;
- Potentially reduced complaints and injuries arising from use of force such as batons & CS;
- Potentially reduced absence of officers injured in violent incidents;
- Operational officers and also the Federation consistently raise the need for uplift in Taser deployment. Currently, response officers strongly feel they are being sent to incidents involving weapons without the capability to safely resolve them.

The only risks identified are the costs of equipment and training abstractions. A business case was submitted to Force Executive Board in December 2016, who approved the recommendation that Taser deployment be amended, with some response officers trained.

The plans for amended Taser deployment have been reviewed by Chief Constable Craig Guildford. The

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previous option of 110 trained officers did not provide sufficient resilience to ensure there would be a trained officer on duty at every hub on every shift.

With fifty response teams, most teams would have only two officers trained. To achieve effective resilience three per team are required. Therefore, the plans were reconsidered at Force Management Board on 23rd March 2017 and Option 4 in the Business Case, of 150 trained officers, was approved. This results in some additional training and equipment costs. These have been kept to a minimum by agreeing a discount on purchase price with Taser, ordering cartridges and batteries in place of unnecessary extended warranty and ordering the minimum necessary number of Tasers.

Recommendation

Business Case Option 4: Nottinghamshire Police should amend the deployment of Taser, training 150 response officers to achieve this.

The significantly improved X2 model Taser is now available. There are several reasons why it is much more effective and safer for both officers and also subjects when used. Force Executive Board approved the recommendation that the X2 should be the model deployed.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

Business Case

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

£85,700 in Capital Funding
£94,500 in one-off Revenue costs
£36,100 in ongoing Revenue costs

This revises the previous decision record (ref: 2016:054)

Signature: 
Chief Finance Officer

Date: 23.03.17

Is any of the supporting information classified as non-public or confidential information?**

Yes		No	
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If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**

DECISION:

OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:
Chief Executive



Date: 24.3.17

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DECLARATION:

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

24/2/17

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

** See guidance on non public information