

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT / USE OF FORCE

2 USE OF FORCE

- 2.1 Officers should use the minimum amount of force necessary to effect a detention or arrest, or to control a prisoner in custody.
- 2.2 The Force follows guidance given by the Conflict Resolution Model. This model assists officers by providing information relating to:
- Impact factors that affect an officer's perception of the threat level that is being faced;
 - Profiling of the offender's/subject's behaviour; and
 - Reasonable response options for officers when dealing with subjects.
- 2.3 Officers should always consider a subject to present one of only two levels of risk, high risk or unknown risk.
- 2.4 The purpose of using force is to gain control. The amount of force used must not be excessive and should be reasonable in the particular circumstances. The level of force used should only be raised to counter any increase in the levels of resistance offered by the subject.
- 2.5 Once control has been established, the officers involved must de-escalate their levels of response immediately. Equally, where the resistance offered by a subject reduces, officers must de-escalate the level of force being used in response.
- 2.6 Having full regard for an individual's human rights, officers must consider the following issues when using force:
- Necessity;
 - Legality;
 - Accountability; and
 - Proportionality.
- 2.7 There are a variety of 'use-of-force' response options available to officers seeking to counter the force used by an offender/subject. These options are dependant upon the level of force offered by the offender/subject, and are described as follows:
- Presence of police officers at a scene;
 - Tactical Communications (verbal/non-verbal);

- Primary Control Skills (Physical contact – fend offs, arm and wristlocks);
- Secondary Control Skills (Handcuffing/CS spray/use of baton to facilitate the application of arm locks);
- **Defensive Tactics (baton strikes/blocks/take-downs);**
- Less-than-lethal options (electro-conductive device e.g. Taser);
- and,
- Deadly force e.g. firearms (options which are likely or intended to cause fatality).

2.8 Where an officer considers that a high level of force is a necessary option, the lower level options must have been excluded as being inappropriate in the particular circumstances.

2.9 Unless extreme circumstances dictate otherwise, officers will always seek to use the recognised techniques taught at Officer Safety Training when dealing with conflict situations.

2.10 Where an incident has the potential to escalate towards levels of extreme violence, consideration should be given to utilising the specially-equipped and trained officers from the 'O' Division Community Support Units. In such situations, it is best practice to obtain the advice of a trained Public Order Advisor. Where a decision is made not to seek such advice, the reasons must be recorded on the relevant Captor incident.

2.11 Details of any use of force should always be recorded, by the officer using it, in his/her official police notebook (paper or electronic). In addition, an Officer Safety Evaluation pro-forma (Force Form pt27) must be completed and submitted following the guidelines detailed below.

3 RECORDING OF INCIDENTS

3.1 Officers should ensure that where force is used, or where items of protective equipment detailed in this Order are used, an entry is recorded in his/her police notebook as soon as is reasonably practicable. A notebook entry should also be made in circumstances where items of equipment are drawn but not used. Where CS Incapacitant Spray is used, the content of the notebook entry should follow the guidance laid down in the CS Incapacitant Spray Student Training Notes (issued to all officers during initial CS training).

3.2 Notebook entries will also provide assistance in the completion of the 'Officer Safety Evaluation' form (Force Form pt27), also known as the 'Use of Force' form. This form should be completed in the following circumstances:

- When a member of the public is struck or controlled by a baton;
- When CS Incapacitant Spray is deployed;
- When handcuffs are used forcibly; or
- Whenever a member of the public is injured by a police officer, or a police officer/member of support staff is injured during a conflict situation.

3.3 The 'Officer Safety Evaluation' form will be completed by the officer(s)/member(s) of support staff involved and thereafter submitted by e-mail, via a line supervisor to a nominated Divisional / Departmental supervisory officer. This will be to the divisional 'Staff Sergeant' mailbox in F and G Divisions, and to the 'Command Support' mailboxes in A and E Divisions. In other Divisions / Departments, nominated officers / mailboxes will be identified by senior management and notified to supervisory staff.

3.4 On receipt of the form, the nominated officer must ensure that, if appropriate, local CS Incapacitant Spray registers are updated to reflect details of any used/newly-issued canisters. The form will thereafter be 'forwarded' via the Divisional Commander to the 'Training Branch' mailbox, with any relevant comments included at each stage. Once received at the Training Branch, the forms will be reviewed by the Force Training Officer, and any issues that arise from the use of officer safety techniques will be addressed