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Our ref: CM/PA/002363/19

Dear Daniel Elliot,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I write in response to the above referenced Freedom of Information request submitted on the 11/09/2019, Hampshire Constabulary has now considered this request, which has been repeated below and have responded accordingly.

Request	Response
<p>I understand that there is Home Office Approved Training for the application of handcuffs on suspects/detainees, however, there seems to be a lack of information regarding what type of suspect/detainee should have which of the approved application methods applied.</p> <p>I have found information that rear handcuffing in the stack position should be applied to slimmer people and larger suspects should have either back to back (of hand) or if impractical, to have 2 sets of handcuffs connected together.</p> <p>It is clear that some people are too large to have rear stack at all or are large enough not to be able to have rear stack without causing considerable pain, discomfort and injury, yet I have found evidence of some people who clearly shouldn't have been handcuffed in the</p>	<p>Hampshire Constabulary does not hold a specific policy in relation to your request.</p> <p>Details of hand cuffing is taught within the following remit:</p> <p>The Personal Safety Manual – Mod 8 – Handcuffing The Personal Safety Manual – Mod 4 – Medical Implications</p> <p>This is a wide-ranging question which would require a greater understanding than simple handcuffing guidelines. This impacts on the National Decision Model in relation to reasons for using handcuffs, initially based on personal safety requiring justification and demonstration of reasonable, necessary and proportionate use of force. As handcuffing is legally an assault, the legal powers to commit this are derived from Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967,</p>



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rear stack position being handcuffed in the aforementioned position.

What is your force policy on handcuffing large people who struggle to or cannot practically position their hands/arms for a rear stack and what are officers taught in regards to handcuffing in the rear stack position?

Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act, Common Law (Breach of the Peace) and Common Law (Self Defence) and Section 76 Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

The Physical Condition of the person is a consideration in decide whether handcuffs should be applied or the application continued. Where a person has a condition that may be aggravated, this might make their use unreasonable. The condition of the person is monitored at all times.

Handcuffing is an important part of subject control. The techniques must be simple and effective whether the subject is standing, sitting, kneeling or prone. Top cuff application is preferred, however officers are also taught bottom cuff application so that they can make a considered decision based on situation, needs and policies.

When considering front or rear handcuffing, the following is relevant. At all times, safety is a consideration. Handcuffing to the front has resulted in officer and subject injury as it allows full range of movement, unimpaired fighting arcs and a more difficult "control" point when holding the cuffs.

Considerations for Front and Rear Application of Handcuffs. Handcuffs are ideally placed at the rear for the safety reasons outlined above. There are some exceptions, detailed below:

Application of handcuffs

Subjects are handcuffed at the front when:

- there is lack of shoulder mobility of the subject
- the subject is obese
- there are medical concerns for the subject including mental health concerns
- there are instructions from a judge or magistrate
- the officer has transitioned from a rear



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	<p>palms out technique to a front stack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the officer has received the subject from another source so handcuffed. <p>This is not an exhaustive list. Multiple handcuff application may also be employed when a suspect cannot be handcuffed normally to the rear stack or back-to-back position and a front stack is not considered appropriate for safety reasons.</p> <p>Within Personal Safety Manual Mod 4 – Medical Implications, Handcuffs and Other Restraining Devices are addressed. This contain considerations in relation to medical implications of applying handcuffs</p> <p>In relation to the above, Hampshire Policy is to recommend the use of the rear handcuffing methods as this provides the highest level of officer safety and control of a suspect. However, the National Decision Model allows an officer to make a considered judgment based on the specifics of an incident as to where the handcuffs are applied. It is accepted that in some pressured incidents the handcuffs may be applied in the quickest and safest manner and can be adjusted or reapplied depending on the timeline of the incident.</p>
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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Hampshire Constabulary, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the Public Access office at the address at the top of this letter.

If, after lodging a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, via telephone on 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745 or at the website www.ico.org.uk



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Yours sincerely

Rose Gaunt
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit



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