

Armed Policing



Reference Number: P1

The Authorised Professional Practice (APP) has been approved by the College of Policing as the official and most up-to-date source of professional practice on policing. South Yorkshire Police have adopted APP as their Statement of Agreed Policy. This is the agreed policy on [Armed Policing](#) and you may wish to refer to the APP section now.

Exceptions

The South Yorkshire Police, SYP, procedure [Pi1.2 - Post Incident Management for Incidents Including those Involving Death/Serious Injury Following Police Contact](#) is currently under review. As such, SYP cannot currently confirm any additions or exceptions to the APP guidance in this area.

Until the review is complete, all procedures relating to this area of policing are contained within a document separate to this policy.

Additions

In addition to APP, South Yorkshire Police's statement of agreed policy on Armed Policing includes;

Scope:

This policy applies to South Yorkshire Police Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) and Conducted Energy Device Officers, those who are responsible for the training, management, command or deployment of those officers, or those who are otherwise involved in incidents requiring the police use of firearms as part of their role.

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this policy and its associated procedural instructions is to provide those officers and 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 those incidents. It is aimed at providing all police officers and police staff with access to

definitive advice about their roles and responsibilities and the procedures concerned with incidents involving the police use of firearms and less lethal weapons.

It also provides all South Yorkshire Police Staff involved with Conducted Energy Device, the knowledge and information necessary for them to act safely and effectively.

Armed Policing

The Operational Support Unit, OSU, will maintain comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in relation to all management, command and operational aspects of its deployment of armed officers, which will underpin this policy document. This includes the use of Conducted Energy Devices in Armed operations, where all Officers will continue to follow the SYP Taser SOP. The Chief Inspector of Firearms Training and Protect within the OSU will ensure that all SOP's are regularly reviewed and re-published annually following ratification by the Firearms Steering Group or Nominated Senior Firearms Officer (ACC Ops Support).

Deployment of Conducted Energy Devices

South Yorkshire Officers adhere to **APP** when deploying Conducted Energy Devices in non-Firearms situations. **All relevant trained staff, should adhere to current Conducted Energy Device SOPs within the Force.**

Body Worn Video

The purpose of this policy statement is to ensure a disciplined and structured approach to the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) for Operational Support Unit (OSU) Firearms Teams and for Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's) serving elsewhere within South Yorkshire Police.

The APP is the source reference document for issues relating to the police use of firearms and all such OSU policies will adhere to this guidance.

BWV will only be available to staff who have been formally trained in its use.

BWV is an overt system and is not to be used for covert recording except in exceptional circumstances and where necessary authorities have been granted. It should only be used to corroborate and not replace evidence from other sources such as police officers or eye witnesses.

When operating BWV, Officers should make a verbal announcement in plain language that the incident is being both audio and video recorded, stating the time, date and reason for activation. Similar information should be captured when recording is finished, prior to deactivation, unless it is impracticable to do so by reason of the situation, behaviour or condition of those present, or because of the dynamics of an armed interception or intervention. This includes as soon as practicable during/after an armed challenge.

Legal Framework

- **Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons - Code of Practice 2020**

- [The Human Rights Act 1998](#) (which gives further effect to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights) and in particular [Article 2 Right to Life](#)
- [Section 3 \(1\) Criminal Law Act 1967](#)
- Common law, in particular provisions in respect of self-defence and [Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act \(PACE\) 1984 and accompanying Codes of Practice](#)
- [Section 76 Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008](#)

Associated Procedural Instructions

This policy is supported by the subsequent procedural instructions

- [Pi1.1 – Police use of Firearms](#)
- [Pi1.2 – Post Incident Management Procedures for Incidents Involving Deaths or Serious Injury in Police Contact](#)

Other relevant policy documents you may wish to consider are:

- [Health and Safety at Work \(Etc\) Act 1974](#)
- [Conducted Energy Device Standard Operating Procedures](#)

SEE ALSO

[Pi13.6 - Body Worn Video Devices](#)

Equality Act 2010

The Act creates a statutory requirement for all Functions and Policies (Including Procedural Instructions) to be analysed for their effect on equality, diversity and human rights, with due regard to the [General Equality Duty](#).

In principle, this document has been assessed for discrimination, which cannot be justified, among other diverse groups.

The [Code of Ethics](#) published in 2014 by the College of Policing requires us all to do the right thing in the right way. It also recognises that the use of discretion in Policing is necessary but in using discretion, states that you should, "*take into account any relevant policing codes, guidance, policies and procedures*."

Human Rights/Discretion

The purpose of providing policy is to give an indication to staff of the expected course of action. However it is not possible to cater for every possible combination of factors that would justify a departure from stated policy. The Human Rights Act 1998 requires the proper use of discretion at all times and nothing within this policy and associated procedural instructions prohibits the proper use of discretion in appropriate circumstances.

Where action is taken that has the potential to interfere with an individual's Human Rights, the reasons behind the making of the decision to act in that way should be recorded on the appropriate forms, or where this is not practicable, in pocket books or policy logs.

Rights of redress for members of the public:

Anyone who feels that a member of staff has behaved incorrectly or unfairly, or who is dissatisfied with organisational matters, service delivery or other operational policing issues, has the right to [make a complaint](#).

Initial action should be taken in one of the following ways:

- Complain in writing or in person to the Senior Officer at the appropriate police station or to the Chief Constable of the force concerned.
- Visit a local Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Contact a Solicitor

Rights of redress for South Yorkshire Police personnel:

South Yorkshire Police personnel who feel they have grounds for concern in relation to the implementation of policies may, as appropriate:

- Pursue concerns through their line manager.
- Contact a First Contact Advisor.
- Pursue a grievance formally through the South Yorkshire Police Grievance Resolution Procedure.
- Seek advice from their staff association or trades union.

Use procedural instruction [Pi23.11 - Management of Complaints](#), in the section entitled Handling Complaints relating to Direction and Control.

Start Date: 16/01/2018

Review:

This statement of agreed policy is managed by Superintendent, Operational Support Unit.

This policy and its Equality Analysis were last reviewed on: 13/12/2021

The date for the next review of this policy and Equality Analysis is: 13/12/2023