

REQUEST –Water Cannon safety data and the legislation under which Police are allowed to carry and use any weapons

1)In view of the decision to have water cannon, please could you send me the safety data.

2)Please could you send me the legislation under which Police are allowed to carry and use any weapons and send me any evidence that they are needed.

RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) dated 12 June 2014, relating to information about water cannon and the legislation under which Police are allowed to carry and use any weapons.

I confirm that I am replying under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please find the information you requested set out below:

Water cannon safety data can be found on our website, here (section 3 of the Appendix refers):

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ACPO%20Water%20Cannon%20Briefing%20Document%2C%20Jan%202014.pdf>

Further work, undertaken by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/science-advisory-committee-on-the-medical-implications-of-less-lethal-weapons> , is currently being considered by the Home Secretary.

A copy of the MPS review into the riots in August 2011 which concluded that water cannons would be "valuable in a few rare situations" can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/mission-priorities/water-cannon>

2)Please could you send me the legislation under which Police are allowed to carry and use any weapons and send me any evidence that they are needed.

The use of weapons by the police is covered by statute (such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and Human Rights Act 1998), policy (such as the Home Office Code of Practice on Police use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons and the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms) and common law. Please see links below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/60/contents>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>

<http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/useoffirearms2835.pdf?view=Binary>

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2011/201111MCDofAO3.pdf>