

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – PCD 271**Title: Taser Uplift****Executive Summary:**

The paper seeks to gain funding to replace the existing MPS stock of Taser X26 devices with the newly-approved X2 device, as Axon (the manufacturer) have ceased production of the X26. The MPS are seeking to increase the deployment of Taser by uplifting the number of officers trained, extending the MPS units that are authorised to use Taser and adopting national deployment modes to increase the availability of Taser across the MPS. The overall strategic objective is to increase the total number of officers trained in the use of Taser to 20% of the total MPS force strength.

The funding will purchase 2,700 Taser devices and associated equipment. The project also requires 19 additional Taser instructors to provide Taser Uplift and refresher training over a two year period, who are existing officers and therefore will not result in additional costs to the project. To support the implementation of the project, a project team will be set up, which will be funded from within existing vacancies.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is asked to

- Approve the funding for Taser devices, associated equipment required to deliver the Taser uplift capability and training at a revenue cost of £15.8m over a five year period.
- To approve that the awarding of a contract for the Taser devices and associated equipment is undertaken via the Home Office National Framework and following this;
- Delegate the authority for awarding of the contract to the MPS Director of Commercial Services

Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Spur Bender .

Date

21/09/17

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The overall strategic objective is to increase the total number of officers trained in Taser to 20% of the total MPS force strength. This increase will be focused on availability within boroughs' emergency response patrol teams, which will receive a significant increase in Taser trained officers (1280 to 3303 officers). In order to achieve the required effect, the MPS will need to procure new Taser devices and increase the number of Taser trained officers by 1867 overall. The net effect of all these measures will be a doubling of availability. There will be a very significant training requirement to achieve this.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 The current Taser X26 is no longer being manufactured and no new units are available to purchase. A minimum number of serviceable units are required across the MPS to continue to deploy operationally. Most current devices are out of warranty or have less than two years remaining on that warranty. Repairs outside the five year warranty are the responsibility of the MPS and can be costly and parts may not be available or may significantly increase in cost.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1 The cost of this project is at a revenue cost of £15.8m over a five year period.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The MPS Directorate of Legal Services were fully consulted during this process and do not foresee any legal implications with the options proposed within the paper.

5. Equality Comments

- 5.1. Taser was first introduced to Borough ERPTs in 2012. At the time, a comprehensive engagement process was undertaken in order to secure the support of local communities for this change of policy, as well as informing an assessment of the impact on equality and diversity. This process included presentations at all 32 Boroughs' IAGs and other community forums, as well as engagement with groups and organisations such as Amnesty International and the MPS Race IAG. The MPS 'Firearms and Taser Reference Group' was formed, which still meets regularly to scrutinise the use of Taser by the MPS. There are numerous monitoring mechanisms in place for Taser use by the MPS, which will remain in place as the uplift takes place.

6. Background/supporting papers

- 6.1. Report.

Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the MOPAC website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred ? NO

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rational for non-publication.

Is there a **part 2** form – Yes

If yes, for what reason:

- EXEMPT under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011.
- Under the FOIA that would exempt this information from disclosure include Data Protection Section 40 and Commercial Interest Section 43.

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Head of Unit: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal Advice: The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Financial Advice: The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: No Equality and Diversity issues identified.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities 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 Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature

R. Lawrence

Date

20/9/17

1793

1793

Taser in the MPS

Report by Commander Twist on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This decision seeks approval to commit £15.8m in total over the next five years (2017-22) in order to increase the availability of Taser devices to MPS officers.

The overall strategic objective is to increase the total number of officers trained in Taser to 20% of the total MPS force strength. This increase will be focused on availability within boroughs' emergency response patrol teams, which will receive a significant increase in Taser trained officers (1280 to 3303 officers). These unarmed officers face the most unpredictable threats and are also the most readily deployable to protect the public across London. Additionally, there will be a more modest increase in Taser availability for some specialist pan-London units with specific requirements, as set out in their 2017 Strategic Threat and Risk Assessments. In order to achieve the required effect, the MPS will need to procure new Taser devices and increase the number of Taser trained officers by 1867 overall. The net effect of all these measures will be a doubling of availability. There will be a very significant training requirement to achieve this.

It is also necessary to consider the replacement of the Taser device that is in use across the MPS. The current X26 is no longer being manufactured, and there are no more available to purchase. The Home Office has recently authorised the police to use the Taser X2 and approval is sought to replace existing devices with the new X2 device.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is asked to:

1. Approve the MPS Taser uplift project, increasing the number of Taser Officers and replacing the existing MPS stock of Taser X26 devices with the newly approved X2 device.
2. Agree funding for 2700 Taser x2 devices and associated equipment required to deliver the Taser uplift capability and training, at a cost of £15.8m over a five year period.
3. Delegate approval of the award of a contract for the Taser devices and associated equipment via the Home Office National Framework to the MPS Director of Commercial Services.
4. Note that £1.5m of the estimated saving of £4m requires an urgent decision as part of the enhancement to the Home Office Framework is only valid until the end of September 2017

B. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Home Office approved the Taser M26 for use in the UK in 2004. Initially, only officers from the Specialist Firearms Command (SO19) were issued with the new device. Following a successful trial period, Taser was issued to all armed officers in the MPS. It remains the case that all Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) in the MPS are trained to use Taser. In 2007, a new X26 Taser (the current MPS model) replaced the M26 and its availability was expanded to the Territorial Support Group. This was the introduction of "Specially Trained Officers" (STOs) – unarmed officers who are trained in the use of Taser. In 2012, the MPS expanded the use of Taser X26 to TP boroughs. This decision followed an incident in Harrow in 2011 where a man attacked four unarmed MPS officers with a knife, causing them serious injuries.
2. The MPS currently has 4600 Taser-trained officers in both firearms and non-firearms roles and holds 1582 operational X26 Taser devices.
3. The case for increased availability of Taser arises from a number of sources. There is an annual strategic threat and risk assessment process in the MPS, in which the need to increase Taser provision features prominently. The recent increase in violent crime in London and the prevailing terror threat have also bolstered the case for additional Taser capability. This is also supported by a recent Police Federation survey which demonstrates the desire amongst frontline officers to be equipped with Taser in order to protect the public and themselves as effectively as possible.
4. Officers on boroughs' Emergency Response Patrol teams (ERPTs) are the first response to emergency calls and provide the primary 24/7 response capability to protect the public from harm. At present on most boroughs at any one time only two cars are equipped with Taser.
5. It is proposed that by increasing the number of officers trained in the use of Taser on ERPT and increasing the number of Tasers held on boroughs it is possible to effectively double the availability of Taser. This will enable officers to better protect the public and themselves against dangerous offenders.
6. In addition to the ERPT uplift, it is proposed to provide a modest uplift of around 70 devices to other commands within the MPS. This includes other frontline units such as the Marine Policing Unit and the Taskforce ANPR interceptor team, which have a similar role in providing a 24/7 response to incidents in London.
7. It is necessary to purchase the new X2 device for a number of reasons. The current Taser X26 is no longer being manufactured and no new units are available to purchase. A minimum number of serviceable units are required across the MPS to continue to deploy operationally. The X2 device has the additional benefits of a dual laser sighting system, dual cartridge, consistent optimal output current and smarter download logs for detailed data capture. Most current devices are out of warranty or have less than two years remaining on that warranty. Repairs outside the five year warranty are the responsibility of the MPS and can be costly and parts may not be available or may significantly increase in cost. It is therefore unsustainable to rely on the current X26 beyond the next two years.

C. OTHER ORGANISATIONAL & COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

Equality and Diversity Impact

Taser was first introduced to Borough ERPTs in 2012. At the time, a comprehensive engagement process was undertaken in order to secure the support of local communities for this change of policy, as well as informing an assessment of the impact on equality and diversity. The MPS 'Firearms and Taser Reference Group' was formed, which still meets regularly to scrutinise the use of Taser by the MPS. There are numerous monitoring mechanisms in place for Taser use by the MPS, which will remain in place as the uplift takes place. All Taser use data will be published quarterly as part of use of force monitoring programme, and publically accessible down to types of use and locations.

Financial Implications / Value for Money

The financial implication of the decisions required are set out in detail in Part Two of this report. The total outlay of the project will be funded from revenue, so there will be no impact on the capital plan. There are two options available to deliver the proposed MPS Taser uplift project. The first option is based on a "pay as you go" procurement route and the second option is the manufacturer's "Premium Plan" which offers significant savings. These costs and savings are set out in full below.

Legal Implications

The MPS Directorate of Legal Services were fully consulted during this process and do not foresee any legal implications with the options proposed within the paper.

Real Estate and Environmental Implications

Property Services have been engaged as part of the planning of this uplift. The projected costs include a modest investment in existing MPS estate in order to provide additional training space for two years. There are no other estate or environmental implications.

Consultation undertaken

The following consultation with key stakeholders has taken place:

Key stakeholder engagement (up to what level)	Supportive / Supportive with concerns / Not supportive / Not affected
TP - Relevant SLT leads	Supportive
SO - Relevant SLT leads	Supportive
SCO - Relevant SLT leads	Supportive
Property Services	Supportive
Human Resources	Supportive
HQ Finance	Supportive
Commercial Services	Supportive
Firearms and Taser reference group	Supportive

Not Protectively Marked

Federation	Supportive
HR (Director)	Supportive

Report author: Matt Twist; Commander – Armed Policing and Taskforce.