

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – PCD 394**Title: Purchase of New Batons****Executive Summary:**

Following a review of the batons currently issued to police officers it has been recommended that the current gravity friction lock baton and the current public order level 2 be replaced by the positive lock baton.

Recommendation:

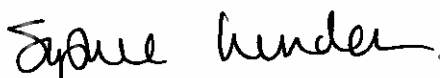
The DMPC is asked to:

Agree that the Metropolitan Police make a one-off purchase of 19,000 positive lock batons to be issued to all frontline police officers. The cost is £2,052,000.

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**Date**

1/6/18

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. We are proud that our country continues to be protected by a police service that is predominantly unarmed. That is a testament to the professionalism and skill of our police officers.
- 1.2. However, we ask police officers to confront violence, aggression and danger on our behalf and sometimes the use of force by the police is unavoidable in resolving these situations. It is part of our duty to our police officers to ensure that we give them the equipment they need to keep themselves and others safe.
- 1.3. Batons are one element in the continuum of force available to police officers in protecting the public and maintaining law and order. At present, police officers have the choice between two different batons: the gravity friction lock baton and the public order level 2 acrylic baton. Most officers choose the gravity friction lock baton as its concertina action makes it more practical. However, this baton is unsuitable for public order duty, and consequently those officers trained for public order work may be issued with both types of batons.
- 1.4. There are concerns over the gravity friction lock baton in that it can collapse in on itself while deployed, so increasing the danger in the situation that the officer is addressing.
- 1.5. Several other Forces have made the switch to the positive lock baton already. This baton has been well received by officers, and in appearance it is very similar to the existing baton.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. If officers have cause to deploy their batons, they must have confidence in that baton being able to function correctly. The current gravity friction lock baton has been known to collapse when deployed – rendering them ineffective. This is clearly unacceptable.
- 2.2. The current level 2 baton measures 26" long, and the gravity friction lock baton measures 21". The new positive lock baton will be available in three sizes – 26" (which would be the standard issue), a 21" version and a short version for covert use.
- 2.3. It is clear that a longer baton can exert more force, however, given the current public order level 2 baton is the same length as the new positive lock baton this should not be seen as setting a new precedent.
- 2.4. In terms of tactics, particularly in regard to the nature of the threat, enabling all officers to have the longer positive lock baton, rather than the gravity friction lock baton, means that officers can maintain greater distance between them and the aggressor. Greater distance means that the safety of the officer is increased, as is the safety of the public.
- 2.5. The appearance of the new baton is very similar to the current gravity baton, and it is the experience of other Forces that have issued the new baton that they go unnoticed by the public.
- 2.6. In addition, the new 'use of force' recording process enables the Service, better than ever before to examine the use of batons and the tactics deployed, together with injury caused, if any. The use of body worn video in most of these situations provides further ability to supervise, oversee, and learn the lessons from the use of force including the use of batons.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The money for this purchase is available by use of the reserve.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The police use of force including the use of batons were appropriate is well established in law.

5. Equality Comments

- 5.1. The new 'use of force' recording process and body worn video increases the ability of Police, Authorities and the public to hold those who use Force to account, including in assessing whether there is disproportionality in the use of these tactics. It is not expected that altering the type of baton used will have any effect on current usage levels or the practice of usage.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

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

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

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 rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – Yes

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Head of Unit: The Siobhan Peters has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities. Through IAB process.	✓
Legal Advice: Legal advice is not required.	✓
Financial Advice: The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓

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

1/6/18



MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME**Positive Lock Baton Business Justification****MOPAC Investment Advisory Board 26th April 2018****Report by Supt Roy Smith on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner****Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Officer Safety Board conducted a review of police batons in England and Wales. A MPS 'proof of concept' identified significant operational advantages with the PLB when compared to the remaining batons. These centre upon an advanced locking system, which cannot collapse – and options for various lengths (up to 26 inches) to meet the individual needs of a diverse workforce, engaged in multiple policing activities facing a varied threat profile.

This paper outlines the proposal to equip frontline officers with a Positive Lock Baton (PLB) as a replacement to both the current standard issue Gravity Friction Lock baton (GFLB) and also the Level 2 public order baton.

A decision is needed from PIB / IAB to approve the spending on a replacement for the current GFL and PO Level 2 Batons and also the adoption of the PLB as the standard issue for front line uniformed officers across all commands.

Recommendations

The MPS Portfolio & Investment Board (PIB) is asked to:

Approve - one-off purchase of 19,000 positive lock batons (PLB) to be issued to all frontline MPS officers at an estimated cost of **£2.052m**. It is proposed to fund the purchase from Reserves created from the Forecast 2017/18 Corporate Revenue Underspend.

If supported by the MPS Portfolio & Investment Board, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory Board (IAB), is asked to:

Approve one-off purchase of 19,000 positive lock batons (PLB) to be issued to all frontline MPS officers at an estimated cost of **£2.052m**. It is proposed to fund the purchase from Reserves created from the Forecast 2017/18 Corporate Revenue Underspend.

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 07/05/2018. This is because there is an urgent need to update the equipment currently issued to officers and allow sufficient time for an effective tendering process to be undertaken.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

We are rightly proud that the British police service remains predominantly unarmed, maintaining law and order through the consent of the public and through the skill and diplomacy of our officers.

However, use of force by the police is sometimes unavoidable. We ask police officers to confront situations of violence and aggression in order to protect the public, and it is our duty to them to ensure that they have the tools they need to protect themselves and others in an effective, proportionate way.

We have firearms officers and Taser-equipped officers expressly to deal with the most serious threats, and we will never knowingly deploy an unarmed officer to an incident that requires an armed response.

But we recognise that there is a change in the level and nature of the threats to officers' safety and that often unarmed officers will be involved in the initial response to incidents involving weapons. On a daily basis, officers are facing increased use of edged weapons within the communities they serve. Furthermore, in 2017 the capital saw a number of terrorist attacks, at which nearby unarmed officers were initial responders.

Within the Corporate General Patrol Risk assessment it has been identified that the currently issued GFLB is no longer the most effective control measure to mitigate the risk from bladed weapon attack. This paper outlines a change to the current issued PPE.

It is recommended that the MPS adopt the more reliable and more versatile positive lock baton as the standard issue baton for all frontline police officers in the MPS, with three variants depending on role. By moving to a PLB there would also be no requirement to issue public order trained officers with a separate baton as the range of tactics which are used in a public order environment can be performed using a PLB.

Issues for consideration

'This information is contained in the restricted section of the report'.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021¹

1. This proposal seeks to properly equip officer to deal with the threat that they currently face both from terrorism and encounter during routine patrol. It looks to increase officer safety and confidence in confrontational situations involving edged weapons.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

2. 'This information is contained in the restricted section of the report'.

Legal Comments

3. There are no significant legal implications to this proposal.

Equality Comments

4. 'This information is contained in the restricted section of the report'.

Privacy Comments

5. 'This information is contained in the restricted section of the report'.

Real Estate Implications

6. This proposal has no real estate implications.

Environmental Implications

7. This proposal will reduce wastage and allow re-use of certain component parts of officer safety equipment. There will be little or no other environmental impact. Returned batons will be disposed of securely in line with existing agreements.

Background/supporting papers

8. There are no supporting papers suitable for publication

Report author: Supt Roy Smith, Chair of Officer Safety Board.

Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [COMMERCIAL]
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [OPERATIONAL]

Part 2 of Positive Lock Baton Business Justification is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

Exempt under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (Data Protection Section 43 – Commercial Interests).

The paper will cease to be exempt until the conclusion of any tendering and procurement process and the contract has been awarded.

¹ Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall

