



5 November 2015

Joanne McCartney, AM, Chair of the
Police and Crime Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AA

Craig Mackey QPM
Deputy Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

Tel: 020 7 230 2636
Email: craig.mackey2@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk

By e-mail

Please see the responses below to your questions following the Police & Crime Committee on 21 July 2015:

- **The number of Metropolitan Police officers who have visited Northern Ireland for water cannon training and the number of officers from the Northern Ireland Police Service who have travelled to London and the frequency of the visits**

A group of six officers attended Belfast for training on the PSNI Water Cannon, One Insp, One Sgt, 4 x PCs for one week on May last year, and I am not aware of any PSNI officers attending the MPS to see our Water Cannon.

- **Confirmation, once it is known, as to whether national guidance on Taser use will be amended as a result of the Begley case**

DAC Basu has asked for a medical review of the information provided to the Begley case to take place. The results of which won't be known until the medical body (probably SACMILL) report back. The task of commissioning this work is well under way. If there are any lessons to be learnt then of course, they will be looked at.

It is worthy of note that the police nationally and the IPCC have been working on 18 recommendations following two IPCC reports last year. These recommendations have helped in the review of training and continue to shape the operational deployments in the UK.



- **Confirmation as to whether there are plans to publish the minutes of the Taser Reference Group in order to aid transparency**

Commander Dave Musker, our lead on Armed Policing, supports this action and will seek the views of the Taser Reference Group membership, at the next meeting to ensure they are content for their views and details being published.

- **The two London boroughs which have increased their number of Taser trained officers**

The decision to vary the number of Taser trained officers deployed rests with the Borough Commander based on assessment of the current threat and risk, including the change in the CT threat to Severe.

The maximum any Borough could deploy on a shift is 10 as that is the number of Tasers on each Borough.

Over the last four months from 30/03/15, the average deployment is four per Borough, per shift.

Five Boroughs - Croydon, Hillingdon, Richmond, Kensington & Chelsea and Islington decided not to deploy above the minimum four Taser officers per shift.

One Borough - Kingston - has only once deployed above the four per shift (5). Eight Boroughs - Sutton, Wandsworth, Hounslow, Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham, Camden and Barking & Dagenham - have gone above this deployment on a handful of occasions.

Eighteen Boroughs have regularly deployed above the four per shift; on average between five and seven. They have also deployed on a number of occasions less than four per shift.

Westminster has increased their deployed most regularly, and has deployed all ten on six occasions.

- **Data illustrating whether the number of emotionally vulnerable people affected by Taser usage has risen in 2015**

The statistics for Psychological data have been obtained from the front page of the 6624 reporting sheet "Was the subject displaying moderator effects"

For 2014 a figure of **796** was recorded out of a total deployment of 1944 and for 2015 it has reached **463** out of 1120 deployments.

These are a subjective view as the officers not-medically trained and observations of the subject where multiply deployments occur may differ.

A previously report compiled by HQ Performance Risk and Performance Unit that was submitted to Commander Musker and MOPAC under the heading Taser Usage & Firearms Deployments 2014 had a page headed Taser Usage (Deployments) - 2014 EMD which gave a figure of **847** out of a total of **1937** deployments. This implied that **44%** of Taser deployments were against individuals who Officers believe to be Emotionally or Mentally Distressed. But this figure also included subjects who were under the influence of alcohol and drugs and has therefore been distorted. The wording "Distressed" does not appear in the report and should not be confused with EMD.

The total Deployments for the year was **1944**, the difference is because Arched and OMPD deployments were omitted from this report.

I would like to stress that this data is not incorrect, but has included other factors and I believe has been misleading.

Using statistics collected from page 2 of the 6624 report which is headed Potential Moderators to Taser Effectiveness which is only completed where a Taser is Fired or used in Drive Stun/Angle Drive Stun Mode gives a more accurate reflection of the situation involving mental health issues.

For 2014 a figure of **162** has been recorded out of **1944** deployments which equates to **8.33%** and for 2015 up to 11/08/2015 **117** out of **1120** deployments equating to **10.44%**.

Since it is a requirement of the SOP that Taser reports should be submitted within 24 hours sometimes information concerning a subject's Mental Health condition is not known and not included in the report. Therefore the publication of such data can be inaccurate.

- **The report on Operation Strong Tower once it is published**

This action has been noted by AC Rowley. The report will be provided as soon as finalised, date to be confirmed.

- **The resources and costs arising from Operation Omega**

The Operation started on Monday 25th May. An initial budget of £200,000 has been assigned equally spread across the four London areas (£50,000 per area). This is closely monitored by CATO who ensures it meets corporate needs and dovetails with existing operations (Equinox / Teal etc). By 4th August 2015 there was a spend total of £114,383.

Activity is primarily delivered by borough officers in their own boroughs, with the support of MSC and Pan-London units where appropriate. The aim is to support boroughs through enhancing their existing tactics - whether that's through developing bespoke plans or occasionally flexing resources into crime hotspots at key times.

Each weekend a number of MSC are brigaded across Areas and posted to key night time economy locations within each Area. These change on a weekly basis.



Some of the crime problems are shared by neighbouring Boroughs. Where this occurs a single joined up approach using locally combined resources is being adopted. An example is Islington, Camden and Hackney who are focusing on theft person offences.

These are listed in Appendix 2. These are the top wards for M7 Crimes over the last 12 months (May - May). This data is re run periodically to ensure tasking's remain valid and up to date.

- **How the 14 languages in the MPS's month-long recruitment pilot were chosen**

The languages were chosen using a languages composite. The language composite is a database devised using data from Experian. The data is from independent research by Experian and is based on a wide range of data sources, that are either compliant with Data Protection legislation, or are in the public domain. We use this data as it is the most up to date information we have access to (census info is very old) and is accessible through our contract we have in place due to the residency criteria checks they conduct for us. The language composite we've designed breaks the data down by borough so that we can look across and see which languages are most spoken on each and every borough. For this pilot, we selected all the languages which had a higher than average presence in at least one of our 32 London boroughs, and this gave us the 14 we are using.

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- **The report of the MPS's month-long recruitment pilot to MOPAC, once it is complete**

The campaign is due to close on the 17th August after which an evaluation will take place as candidates applications progress. An update can be provided at the end of September 2015.

Yours sincerely


Craig Mackey
Deputy Commissioner