

 West Mercia POLICE		POLICY
Security Classification	OFFICIAL	
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes	

POLICY TITLE	Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) Taser
POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER	WMP158
Version	1.1

POLICY OWNERSHIP	
DIRECTORATE	LOCAL POLICING
BUSINESS AREA	OPERATIONS

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	April 2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	April 2024
RISK RATING	HIGH
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	HIGH

West Mercia Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy.
Please e-mail policiesandprocedures@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

1.0 POLICY OUTLINE

West Mercia Police have adopted a harmonised approach to the operational deployment and management of Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs).

This policy deals with the use and deployment of CED's 'outside' of any incidents operating within a firearms authority. Deployments within such an authority are dealt with under separate policies and conform to the guidance laid down in the Authorised Professional Practice (APP) Armed Policing module.

The current Conducted Energy Device (CED) used in West Mercia Police is the TASER X2.

The current system for managing CED's is Chronicle.

The use of the Taser will conform to the ACPO operational guidance issued specifically for the 'extended operational deployment of Taser'. All other the ACPO/NPCC Personal Safety Manual of Guidance and the current force procedure on CEDs.

2.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This policy applies structured governance and systems to the operational deployment of CEDs. Ensuring the protection offered to both the public and police is safe, effective, efficient and consistent.

This policy, through the associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the deployment and management of CEDs, will act as a source of reference for practitioners and managers.

This policy and the associated SOPs do not supersede or replace Approved Professional Practice (APP) or legislative direction, but provide guidance on the implementation specifically relevant to West Mercia Police.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS of the POLICY

The process will provide clear oversight of CED activity, including audit and review at strategic, tactical and operational levels. To achieve this the policy requires a resilient management process that includes the provision of identified specialist post holders, training, IT and safe storage equipment

Appropriate training will be available for personnel involved.

This policy should be used in conjunction with:

The National Decision Model:

Officers involved in the deployment of Taser will apply the National Decision Model (NDM). This will enable those concerned to select the most appropriate tactical option commensurate to the threat presented. Thus ensuring that ethical (see Code of Ethics),

proportionate and defensible decisions can be made in relation to operational and non-operational policing.

Code of Ethics:

Staff operating under the procedures associated with this document will comply with the standards and principles of the Code of Ethics for policing.

Authorised Professional Practice:

APP enables officers and staff to access and search for the most up to date approved guidance, APP guidance on CEDs should be accessed in conjunction with this policy.

Legal Basis:

CEDs are classified as 'prohibited weapons' by virtue of Section 5 Firearms Act 1968. Police officers, whilst acting in their capacity as such, are exempt from the requirements of the legislation and do not need any additional legal authority to possess the CED.

Taser Cartridges, whilst live are classified as ammunition under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968.

Taser CEDs are classified as 'work related equipment' and not as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Use of the CED is a tactical option available to a police officer who is faced with violence or the threat of violence. Its purpose is to temporarily incapacitate an individual in order to control and prevent the threat posed. It is not to be used to inflict severe pain or suffering on another in the performance or purported performance of official duties (The Criminal Justice Act 1988, s.134)

The police use of force is governed by:

- Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967
- Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008
- The Police Standards of Professional Behaviour
- Common Law

Nothing in this policy overrides the fundamental duty of police officers to protect life in accordance with the law and the European Convention on Human Rights.

It has been demonstrated that where CEDs have been used, it has contributed to the effective resolution of the incident. They are not a replacement for existing personal safety tactical options, but are an option that should be considered alongside other personal safety tactical options, such as negotiation, batons, incapacitant sprays and dogs. These do not constitute a hierarchy of lawful force and should be viewed as a range of approved options from which the most proportionate and appropriate should be selected, according to circumstances, in order to meet the obligations set out in this document.

CED technology has been subjected to rigorous assessment and testing by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch.

4.0 PROCEDURE

A procedure is available on a separate document

5.0 CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with, College of Policing, LPA and Departmental Heads, PSD, Legal Services, Federation, Health & Safety, Strategic IAG's and Critical Friends.

Business Lead Consulted	Date Consulted
Supt Steph Brighton	June 2022

6.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

The history and rationale for change to policy will be recorded using the below chart:.

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Approval / Adoption
		Previously approved at JNCC meeting	JNCC 18/09/2019
January 2021	Darren Heyes	Update to procedure surrounding carriage of Taser in courts following National changes.16LL'2020' National Circular v1.0	April 2021
June 2022	Darren Heyes	7.2 CED Post-Use Procedures updated to cover taking the subject directly to custody as per national guidance and Post Use – removal of the requirement to complete a separate CED deployment form in procedure v1.1	June 2022
April 2023	Lee Bridges	Reviewed – No changes	April 2023

7.0 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Equality Analysis (EA) and community impact assessment are currently being reviewed regarding CEDs.

8.0 MONITORING / EVALUATION

The monitoring and review of this policy is the responsibility of the policy owner. The policy is maintained by the Force CED SPOC, Force Operations department