



Working Together - Building safer Communities

Taser Introduced in Strathclyde

Tasers will be introduced in Strathclyde Police from Monday 19 September 2005.

Following extensive trials in a number of English Police Forces during 2003/2004, and significant scientific research, ministerial approval was granted to enable chief constables to introduce the deployment of Tasers.

Tasers will only be issued to specially trained firearms officers and authorisation for their issue and use is in accordance with guidance contained within the 'ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms'.



Strathclyde Police is the first Force in Scotland to deploy Taser. However, the majority of Forces in the UK have or are now in the process of deploying them as a less lethal option where the authorisation of firearms has been granted.

Assistant Chief Constable Ian Learmonth (Operational Support) said:

"Following the trials in England during 2003/2004 careful consideration was given to the introduction of Taser. The trials were independently evaluated and the report on the operational trials concluded that the use of Taser 'helped secure a positive outcome to an incident, minimising the potential need for officers to deploy other, possibly more lethal technologies'.

"Whilst Taser will always be deployed alongside conventional firearms and should not be seen as a replacement for such weapons, Taser will provide another less lethal option which may assist in the safe resolution of firearms incidents without recourse to more lethal force.

"Part of the pre-implementation plan has been to speak to as many interested groups as possible. These have included members of the medical community to ensure that immediate and effective support is provided to any person who is subjected to Taser."