

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Official



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Owning Department: Specialist Operations Command

Department SPOC: Inspector, Firearms Training

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Legal Basis

Legislation specific to the subject of this policy document:

- Police Act 1996 Section 39A

Other relevant legislation which you must check this document against (required by law)

- Human Rights Act 1998 (in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination)
- Equality Act 2010
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated Regulations
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Other documentation which you must check this document against:

- College of Policing – Code of Ethics
- Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Standards of Professional Behaviour
- College of Policing – Authorised Professional Practice

Other Related Documents

- Norfolk and Suffolk Armed Policing Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA)
- Generic Risk Assessment for the Police use of Firearms
- National Police Firearms Training Curriculum (NPFTC)
- 7F Firearms Training Collaboration Training Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- Norfolk and Suffolk Operational Armed Policing Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- Firearms Training Business Continuity Plan

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies provide an armed capability to assist at incidents involving subjects who are considered so dangerous and violent that the issue of firearms and or less lethal options is considered necessary. Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will only arm officers who have undergone a specific selection and training programme. Each Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) will be equipped in accordance with their training and role. AFOs will be required to maintain specific levels of training and fitness in order to maintain their status.

2. Statement of Policy

- 2.1 This policy has been formally agreed via the approved policy development/review process. It will be maintained by the Specialist Operations Command in conjunction with the Central Policy Unit.
- 2.2 The policy is intended to promote equality, eliminate unlawful discrimination and actively promote good relations regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, economic or family status.
- 2.3 Managers have a responsibility to ensure this policy is applied fairly, and unless otherwise stated, all policies and procedures are non-contractual.

3. Applicability

- 3.1 Unless otherwise stated, this policy applies to all police officers (including officers of the Special Constabulary) and all members of police staff (including police support volunteers).

4. Content

- 4.1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been produced as a result of a review of all existing firearms policies detailing service policy in respect of procedures, roles and responsibilities for the management of firearms operations, and all other associated firearms matters.
- 4.2 The contents of the SOPs comply with and should be read in conjunction with the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice on Police Use of Firearms and the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP).
- 4.3 The Training and Operational SOPs cover the following:
- Governance;
 - Recruitment and Selection of Firearms Officers and Commanders;
 - Fitness to Perform Firearms Duties;
 - Training and Accreditation;
 - Armoury;
 - Operations;

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- Post-Incident Procedures;
 - Quality Assurance;
 - Accidents/near misses;
 - Equipment – including weaponry, ammunition and specialist ammunition.
- 4.4 They do not include issues surrounding the licensing of legally held firearms or the gathering of intelligence relating to the criminal use of such weaponry.
- 4.5 The policy and standard operating procedures in relation to the Police Use of Firearms are owned by the Joint Strategic Firearms Coordinating Group, implemented and reviewed under the direction of the Assistant Chief Constable, Specialist Operations Command.
- 4.6 The Training SOPs are held and owned by the Chief Firearms Instructor, Seven Force Firearms Training Collaboration.
- 4.7 The Operational SOPs are held by the Chief Inspector Firearms Training, Specialist Operations Department.