

Security Marking:

OFFICIAL

POLICY



Police Use of Firearms

Owning Department:	Protective Services		
Department SPOC:	Inspector, Firearms Training and Dog Section		
Risk Rating:	High	Legal Sign Off: Date:	26/09/2016

Approved by

JNCC:	June 2016		
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Version:

1.1

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Legal Basis

List the relevant legislation which is the legal basis for this policy. You must update this list with changes in legislation that are relevant to this policy and hyperlink directly to the legislation.

Legislation specific to the subject of this policy document

Section	Act (title and year)
39 and 39A	Police Act 1996 under which the Codes of Practice on the Police Use of Firearms are made
73	Police Act 1997

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

Act (title and year)
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

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

Other Related Documents

- Joint Firearms Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA)
- [Generic Risk Assessment for the Police use of Firearms](#)
- National Police Firearms Training Curriculum (NPFTC)
- [COP Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#)
- Joint Firearms Training Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- Joint Armed Policing Operational Standard Operating Procedures Manual

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. Content

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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).
- 2.3 The Training and Operational SOPs cover the following:
 - Governance
 - Recruitment and Selection of Firearms Officers and Commanders
 - Fitness to Perform Firearms Duties
 - Training
 - Armoury
 - Operations
 - Post-Incident Procedures
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The policy and standard operating procedures, in relation to the Police Use of Firearms, are owned by the Joint Strategic Firearms Command Group, implemented and reviewed under the direction of the Assistant Chief Constable, Joint Protective Services.
- 2.6 The Training SOPs are held by Firearms Training, Specialist Operations Department.
- 2.7 The Operational SOPs are held by the Roads and Armed Policing Team, Specialist Operations Department.