



REPORT TO: Stakeholder Relations & Communications Strategy Committee
DATE: 20 January 2010
SUBJECT: Update on Taser Trials
SPONSOR: Assistant Chief Constable Operations
AUTHOR: Chief Inspector Christopher Dreyfus

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 To brief Members of the Stakeholder Relations & Communications Strategy (SR&CS) Committee on progress of the Taser pilot.

2. CURRENT POSITION

2.1 One hundred and two officers have completed the Taser Officers' Course. This has been a strictly pass or fail course, delivered to a high standard, with an average of two students failing per course. When compared to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) requirements and training delivered by other forces British Transport Police (BTP) are confident that its Authorised Taser Officers have been through a challenging process designed to put them under pressure, and are now of a standard which would allow them to deploy Taser effectively in circumstances which justify the use of this tactical option.

2.2 The Professional Standards Department (PSD), the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA), the National Independent Advisory Group (NIAG) and Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) have observed the course.

2.3 There has been consultations with the NIAG, the Independent Advisory Network (IAN), the Train Operating Companies (TOCS), Transport for London (TfL) and the BTPA, all of whom have had briefings and presentations.

2.4 The Home Office Scientific Development Branch conducted some additional safety testing for the railway environment, in conjunction with Network Rail and London Underground Ltd. The report and BTP's risk assessment have been shared with the industry, ACPO and other forces. The risk



assessment has informed our training and our officers have been trained specifically to operate the device within a railway environment.

2.5 Secure storage and the devices have now been delivered to the pilot sites. Officers will only be issued their pin for accessing the storage the day before the operational start of the pilot on Monday 16th November.

The Standard Operating Procedure document has been signed off by the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations).

3. COMMUNICATION PLAN

3.1 A short article has already appeared in "The Line", and was followed up with an article in the internal email newsletters on Friday 13 November. This signposted officers to the various briefing documents on the intranet.

3.2 Briefings have been prepared for non-Taser trained officers, custody staff, control room staff and area duty officers.

3.3 A letter is has been sent to the TOCs and passenger representative groups to explain the next stage of the pilot.

3.4 Home Office forces covered by the pilot sites have been informed of the pilot's operational start, as have the ACPO Armed Policing working group.

3.5 Articles will be submitted to rail industry media only. A question and answer paper is being developed to ensure consistency in responding to media enquiries and a media strategy has been put together for the first use of the device and the first firing.



3.6 The Evening Standard published an article on BTP's launch of the pilot scheme, which generated several media enquiries. As a result a further discussion was had with NIAG to ensure that any community questions were addressed at an early stage.

3.7 To date there have only been two low level uses of Taser: the first in Manchester and the second in London. On both occasions the Taser was drawn from its holster but was not pointed or fired.