

Management of Firearms Incidents Policy

1 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The intentions of BTP in respect of any spontaneous or pre-planned firearms operations are:
- to safeguard the public
 - to ensure the safety of its officers
 - to maintain procedures to allow early consideration of the need to deploy armed officers
 - by a process of continuous evaluation and assessment of all the information and intelligence to negate or confirm the nature or existence of the threat by the application of the Conflict Management Model (MOG Ch. 2, Para. 1.6 - 1.9 & Ch. 8 Para 4.6)
 - ensure the appropriate force(s) is/are notified at the earliest opportunity to allow constant reassessment of the threat and risk prior to any deployment
 - arrest offenders
 - secure evidence
 - minimise disruption to railway services and the travelling public.

2 General Principles (Overview)

- 2.1 British Transport Police (BTP) does not have an armed capability and its officers are not trained or authorised to use firearms on duty. Any armed police deployments will be supplied from local forces. The responsibility for the planning, authorisation, command and tactics of armed officers will be with the providing force(s).
- 2.2 This policy seeks to provide a common understanding of that position and the responsibilities of BTP when such armed deployments are being considered or made within BTP's jurisdiction or in support of its officers.

2.3 The policy is written with the intention, to as far as practicable; comply with the ACPO Manual of Guidance on the Police Use of Firearms (MOG), the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum and the Code of Practice on the Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons (2003).

2.4 Consideration has been given to the compatibility of this policy and related procedures to the Human Rights Act 1998. Its legal basis comes from the common law duties of a police officer to protect life, Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967 and Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

3 Applicable Date, Monitoring and Review

3.1 The Policy will be applicable from 9 May 2006 and be reviewed in 9 May 2007.

4 Ownership

4.1 The Policy is owned by ACC (Operations) to whom any questions in respect of it should be directed.

5 Associated Documents

5.1 British Transport Police Management of Firearms Incidents Standard Operating Procedures (May 2006).

5.2 The ACPO Manual of Guidance on the Police Use of Firearms (February 2006).

5.3 Code of Practice on the Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons (2003).