

To: Office of Police and Crime Commissioner – Performance Meeting

Date: Wednesday 29 March 2017

By: Superintendent Heather Keating/Inspector Adam Smith

Title: The new Taser X2 and Surrey Police plans are for issue.

Purpose of Report/Issue:

To brief the PCC on the new Taser X2 CED and how it will be used in Surrey.

Introduction/Background: As above

Report Detail: As enclosed

Recommendation(s)/Future Activity: As detailed in report

Risks: As detailed in report

Attachments/ Background Papers: N/A

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Current Situation

Currently, Surrey police utilises the Taser X26 Conducted Energy Device (CED). This device was approved in 2003 and has been used throughout the UK since that time. The X26 has not been manufactured since 2014 and the warranties on the existing units are now expiring.

In February 2017, the Minister of State for Policing, and the Fire Service – Mr Brandon Lewis MP – announced the replacement of the existing device, the X2, had been approved by the Home Office.

The Taser X2 Conducted Energy Device

The X2 is a broadly comparable device to the X26, but with a number of upgraded features.



As with the X26, the X2 fires two barbs; unlike the X26, the X2 has two lasers indicating where each of the barbs is aimed. This should dramatically increase the accuracy when firing.

The X2 is also loaded with 2 cartridges at a time. Officers have always carried 2 cartridges; however, the old device required an operational reload if the second cartridge was required. Additionally, the X2 has the ability to deliver charge between the barbs of both cartridges, further increasing it's effectiveness.

The X2 is a smart device, which only delivers the charge required to have the incapacitating effect, which can be considerably less than the current device.

The X2 records considerably more detail about its usage, including the actual manner of use and thus creates a much more detailed audit trail.

This is not an exhaustive list.

A recent independent review of the device by Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) has shown the device to work within the accepted parameters of safety for CEDs, but with a recommendation for ongoing analysis as deployments increase post implementation.

Plan

CEDs (Tasers) are currently carried in Surrey by all Armed Response Vehicle Officers and a number of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) based on divisions.

From April 2017, the Public Order Training Unit (POTU) will begin to prepare the infrastructure of Surrey Police to support the X2; purchasing the new devices, training the trainers, upgrading computer software to support the new device, training Taser technicians on maintaining the new device and converting existing Taser Safes to fit the differently shaped device.

All Taser trained officers (ARV and STOs) are required to reaccredit every 12 months; this is normally a 1 day course. The conversion course from the X26 to the X2 is 2 days, but includes the 1 day refresher course. All existing STOs will be converted during their yearly refresher course during 2018 with ARV officers converting in 2019.

Officers can only be trained on one device at a time, so once trained on the X2 officers will not be able to use to X26 anymore.

The processes for the selection of STOs and governance of Taser usage remain unchanged.

Surrey and Sussex Police continue to actively engage with the community, through the IAG Taser Oversight Group and have a robust and open governance of Taser training, deployment and usage through the Taser Working Group, chaired by Supt Heather Keating.