



Police Scotland

What is Taser?



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Police Scotland has a duty to protect life and make sure police officers and the public are safe.

Police officers carry Taser as one of their ways to protect people from violence.

Taser is the name of a device that makes electricity that fires wires through the air and through clothing.



Taser fires two small darts that break the skin, make small holes and stay attached to the person it is fired at.

Once it hits somebody it gives short pulses of electricity.

Why is a Taser used?



Taser is used to protect people from violence or threats of violence.

Other ways that use force - like using a baton or physically stopping someone from moving - can injure both the person and officers.



Taser allows officers to keep a distance from the person and avoid personal contact.

Any use of force must be:

- really needed
- just enough to match how serious the situation is



Police officers often have to deal with situations very quickly.

The most important thing is to remove the risk anyone presents to themselves or others.



Officers will use their communication skills and judge what is happening before deciding if it is right to use Taser.

If a person has Taser fired at them, they may lose control of their muscles.

This may stop them from moving and may make them fall to the ground.



This lets police officers go up to the person safely and stop them from causing harm to themselves or others.



Taser is fired less than 1 in 7 times it is used.



A person should recover from the effects of Taser when it is turned off.

Anyone who is Tasered is checked over by a doctor.



Police officers need to have new ways to protect themselves and the public from being attacked.



Police Scotland began having Specially Trained Officers in 2018 who work in local areas and are trained to use Taser if needed.

The number of Specially Trained Officers will grow from 500 to 2000 over the next few years.

What Taser training do Police Officers get?



Officers do a 4 day training course that looks at how to make a situation less dangerous, and when to use a Taser.

Officer also get extra training once a year.



We want officers who will:

- look at a situation calmly
- think carefully
- decide what to do

National Taser Advisory Group

Police Scotland set up a National Taser Advisory Group and met for the first time in February 2022.



The group has people representing different communities including:

- disability
- mental health
- children's rights
- human rights



The group gives advice on the effect Taser may have on their communities and how there may be a better way to deal with situations.

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