



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

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Armed Policing

Policy

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1.00	Initial Approved Version	07/02/2014
2.00	Minor re-working as part of Policy review	19/10/2016
3.00	Amended in line with change to Armed Policing deployment model	22/11/2018

Armed Policing Policy

The Police Service of Scotland, (hereafter referred to as Police Scotland) recognises that an individual's right to life and public safety is of paramount consideration when dealing with armed policing matters.

The issue of police firearms and the deployment of armed officers in their specialist role will at all times be carried out under rigorous standards of training, authorisation and robust operational command. This is achieved in accordance with the provisions of the Authorised Professional Practice (Armed Policing) as adopted by Police Scotland, and the Statement of Intent on Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons in Scotland.

Police Scotland is committed to applying sound decision making methodology to ensure that any response to firearms threats will be proportionate, legal, accountable, necessary, least intrusive and take cognisance of officer safety and the safety of the public.

Police Scotland also acknowledges the need to maintain public trust and confidence in the Service and, taking cognisance of our values of Integrity, Fairness and Respect, and the need for transparency, this policy further supports the conventional deployment of armed officers to assist positive contribution to Local Policing and community priorities in an appropriate, effective and efficient manner.

Police Scotland is further committed to applying similar sound decision making methodology to ensure that any response to non-firearms related policing incidents by armed officers in a conventional mode, will be proportionate, legal, accountable, necessary, least intrusive and take cognisance of officer safety and the safety of the public.