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**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

**POILEAS ALBA**

## **Public Order**

### **Standard Operating Procedure**

**This SOP provides clear direction and procedural instruction to provide a consistency of response in accordance with force policy, however it is recognised that policing is a dynamic profession and the standard response may not be appropriate in every circumstance. In every situation, your decisions and actions should be supported by the National Decision Model and based on the values and ethics of Police Scotland. You may be expected to provide a clear and reasonable rationale for any decision or action which you take.**

#### **Notice:**

**This document has been made available through the Police Service of Scotland Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. It should not be utilised as guidance or instruction by any police officer or employee as it may have been redacted due to legal exemptions**

<b>Owning Department:</b>	OSD – Specialist Services
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### **1. Purpose/Scope**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) supports the Police Service of Scotland, hereafter referred to as Police Scotland (PS), Policy for Specialist Operations, and in particular the:

- Authorisation of specialist public order resources;
- Training of a Public Order (PO) Officer;
- Tactical Options and other specialist resources.

This SOP is **not** intended to be a comprehensive tactical guide in the policing of public disorder. Guidance must be sought from the:

- Police Scotland Public Order Authorised Professional Practice (Held Locally);
- ACPOS Public Order Manual of Guidance on Standards, Tactics and Training;
- Public Order Tactical Advisors (POTAC);
- Public Order Commanders.

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**Advice can be sought from an on duty POTAC or the on call POTAC for that geographical area. For additional contact details including C3, Public Order Training Units and Operational Support Units refer to Section 18.**

### **2. Authorisation**

The process for authorisation and deployment of public order resources in either a pre-planned or spontaneous situation is as follows:

- The authority to deploy Police Support Units (PSUs) for pre-planned events remains with the Assistant Chief Constable (ACC), Operational Support, or Duty ACC if not available. Any authority should specify the mode of dress based upon threat and risk assessments.
- A PO Gold Commander will always be appointed for any event which is deemed to require the deployment of PSUs.
- On those occasions when authority has been granted to deploy PSUs in either Code 2 or Code 3 modes of dress (Section 10) and, once deployed, circumstances dictate that the most appropriate PSU operational tactic must be carried out in Code 1 dress (e.g. a spontaneous rise in risk), recourse must be made to seeking the authority of the PO Gold Commander. The PO Gold Commander must then update the Duty ACC of the circumstances.
- The authority granted to deploy in Code 1 mode of dress confers authority to PO Bronze Commanders to implement any tactic capable of being performed in Code 1 mode of dress to achieve a lawful objective, other than the tactical

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deployment of Batons, Mounted Officers and/or Dogs as a co-ordinated group dispersal tactic.

- The tactical deployment of Batons, Mounted Officers and/or Dogs as a co-ordinated group dispersal tactic requires the authority of the PO Gold Commander. If such ratification is given, the PO Gold Commander must subsequently inform the Duty ACC of the circumstances.
- Where any delay could result in loss of life/serious injury, an officer at Public Order Silver or PO Bronze Command level may authorise Batons, Mounted Officers and/or Dogs as a co-ordinated group dispersal tactic and thereafter advise the Public Order Gold Commander as soon as possible to allow a prompt review of the deployment. The PO Gold Commander must then update the Duty ACC of the circumstances.
- The authority to grant a pre-planned Code 1 (full Public Order Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)) rapid entry operation or violent/deranged person (VDP) operation will be made by the Local Area Commander for the Local Policing Division in which the operation is to take place. Similarly, the authority to grant a Method of Entry (MOE) operation, with PO PPE (but no expectation of deploying PO tactics), will be made by the Local Area Commander for the Local Policing Division in which the operation is to take place. When considering such a request, authorising officers must adhere to the principles of the National Decision Model in ensuring community impact has been assessed as a final measure in governing the MOE/Rapid Entry operation.
- For a spontaneous incident which occurs out with business hours, authority for both rapid entry and MOE operations will be sought from the Duty Officer from C3 for the relevant geographical area. Contact with the relevant Local Area Commander need only be made if the incident should become protracted.
- In circumstances where an immediate PO response is required for a VDP, then the Duty Officer from C3 for the relevant area can authorise this. Contact with the relevant Local Area Commander need only be made if the incident should become protracted.
- In circumstances where a cell extraction requires the use of PO resources, authorisation can be granted by the relevant Duty Officer from C3.

### **3. Pre-Planned Event**

Once a strategy for the event or operation has been set the development of the tactical plan must be implemented that outlines the most suitable tactical options to deliver the strategy. In the case of pre-planned events PS work to the principles contained within the PS Public Order Authorised Professional Practice (held locally).

### **4. Spontaneous Event**

Immediate and temporary command will sit with C3. When trained PO Commanders take transfer of command, they must consider the following:

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- Initial working strategy;
- Scale of Response;
- Communication;
- National Decision Model (NDM);
- Policing Style and tone;
- Consulting with a POTAC;
- Relevant legislation;
- European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- Use of Force;
- Tactical Options.

### 5. Violent Deranged Person (VDP)

For VDP incidents, the command structure is satisfied by the presence of a Police Incident Officer (PIO) - PIO toolkit is available on the Moodle Online Learning Application.

In order to support the response to VDP incidents, early consideration must be given to specialist support from a number of areas. This could include:

- Public order trained officers in full PPE with shields for containment;
- POTAC;
- MOE / equipment;
- Police dogs;
- Operational Support Units specialist equipment (lighting, endoscope, fire extinguishers, ladders, specialist method of entry equipment etc.);
- Negotiators;
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service;
- Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS);
- Public Utilities;
- Tactical Firearms Advisors (TFA);
- Emergencies Planning Advisor (EPA).

**In circumstances where an immediate Public Order response is required for a VDP, then the Duty Officer from C3 for the relevant area can authorise this. Contact with the relevant Local Area Commander need only be made if the incident should become protracted.**

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## **6. Hostage Incidents**

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Rapid/Dynamic Intervention must not be confused with the Public Order tactic of Rapid Entry.

## **7. PO Trained Officer**

Officers must attend an initial eight day course and thereafter four days refresher training in every twelve month period.

This refresher training is normally held in 2 x 2 day sessions Spring and Autumn.

This ensures officers are trained in:

- **Module B2 - Level Two Public Order** - Competent for deployment in a mutual aid role in England and Wales (annual).
- **Module B3 - Northern Ireland Public Order** - Competent for deployment in a mutual aid role in Northern Ireland (biennial).

PO officers must complete refresher training to maintain an operationally competent standard.

## **8. PO Equipment**

All PO trained officers are issued PPE as per the ACPOS Public Order Manual of Guidance on Standards, Tactics and Training.

In addition, sufficient shields and ancillary equipment must be held at a central point in each local policing area to allow the deployment of these officers into an environment of significant public disorder.

## **9. Police Support Unit (PSU)**

For demonstrations, protests, incidents or events where there is a requirement for PO capability, PO trained officers must deploy and mobilise in a PSU.

This is a numerically fixed body of officers trained and equipped to a national standard recognised throughout the United Kingdom. **Information has been removed due to its content being exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 35, Law Enforcement.**

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### 10. Mobilisation of Resources

In an unplanned, spontaneous event the mobilisation of resources required by the command structure will be the responsibility of the Duty Officer from C3 for the relevant command area.

On-duty PO trained officers will be identified from the System to Co-ordinate Personnel and Establishment (SCoPE).

The Duty Officer will similarly be responsible for coordinating the contacting and deployment of off-duty resources as required.

Officers identified, whether on-duty or off-duty will be directed to attend at the identified point of storage within their local policing area at which the required equipment and transport are based. Once equipped, these officers will be instructed to:

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In addition to PO trained officers, certain key personnel must be contacted.

This should include:

- Bronze (Operational) Public Order Commanders (Normally a minimum of one per three Police Support Unit's (PSU's) deployed);
- Silver (Tactical) Public Order Commander and;
- POTAC.

Additional public order tactics may include:

- Medics;
- MOE;
- Protestor Removal Team (PRT);
- Rapid Entry;
- Evidence Gathering Team (EGT).

Additional resources may include: -

- Police Liaison Officers (PLO);
- Negotiators;
- Forward Intelligence Teams (FIT)
- Technical Support Unit;
- TFA;
- Community Advisor;
- Independent Advisory Group

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- Emergencies Planning Advisor (EPA);
- Communications Engineer(s);
- Media Officer;
- Intelligence Cell;
- Road Policing;
- Senior Investigating Officer (SIO);
- Crime Scene Manager (CSM);
- Other Emergency Services;
- Public Utilities.

Upon mobilisation, consideration must be given as to the mode of dress/equipment level.

Should a decision be made to deploy trained PO officers at the locus in conventional uniform, it must be borne in mind that a delay will occur if those officers are subsequently required to change into PPE.

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This goes some way to preserving normality in the police response, whilst retaining the potential for a more rapid, fully protected, redeployment if required. If it is decided that this tactic is appropriate, the Tactical Commander must convey this information to the Strategic Commander, advising of the intelligence or circumstances that suggest that this course of action is deemed necessary.

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## 11. Command Structure

The Command Structure for incidents of public disorder is as follows:

### **Gold (Strategic) Commander**

Will normally be Chief Superintendent/Superintendent Rank or above and will be in overall command of the operation. The authority to deploy PSUs for pre-planned events remains with the ACC, Operational Support, or Duty ACC if not available.

### **Silver (Tactical) Commander**

Will normally be Chief Superintendent/Superintendent ranks and are responsible for ensuring the tactics employed by Bronze Commanders meet the strategic intention and tactical plan.

### **Bronze (Operational) Commander**

Will normally be Chief Inspector/Inspector ranks and are responsible for the implementation of the Silver Commander's Tactical Plan by the use of appropriate

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tactics within their geographical or functional area of responsibility. Figure 2 denotes a typical command structure:

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For a comprehensive guide to the command structure, procedures, tactical considerations and tactical options, reference must be made to the PS Public Order Authorised Professional Practice (held locally).

### **12. Tactical Advice / POTAC**

The use of Tactical Advisors must be considered at the planning and implementation stage of every operation. The decision not to involve a Tactical Advisor must be documented. An Advisor can provide information and recommend courses of action with their potential advantages and disadvantages. The Advisors do not make any decisions or take action. The responsibility for the validity and reliability of the advice lies with the Advisor, but the responsibility for the use of the advice lies with the Commander.

### **13. Policy Logs**

Gold, Silver and Bronze Commanders must accurately record their decision making, making use of the Gold/Silver/Bronze Policy/Decision Log (Form 135-006).

### **14. Health and Safety/Risk Assessment**

A specific risk assessment relative to public order must be formulated for each pre-planned event. Dynamic Risk Assessments must be applied as required during spontaneous incidents.

All officers engaged in PO duties must comply with the control measures identified in the Specialist Operations Risk Assessment (Form 135-044).

### **15. Welfare**

Due to the physical nature of PO duties, early consideration must be given to the welfare needs of all officers thus engaged and must include the provision of refreshment, suitable rest periods and any first aid requirements. Critical incident debriefing should also be considered.

### **16. Media**

Any pre-planned or spontaneous event is bound to attract high profile publicity within the local, and often wider, community. The public relations strategy must include a media strategy and a plan for locating and involving community mediators. It is

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strongly recommended that appropriate use be made of the support available from the Corporate Services, Media Relations team:

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### **17. Diversity Unit**

The Diversity Unit can provide advice on cultural and general diversity issues. They should be contacted and a Community/Lay Advisor consulted as appropriate:

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### **18. Key Contacts**

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**Compliance Record**

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**Version Control Table**

<b>Version</b>	<b>History of Amendments</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>
1.00	Initial Approved Version	11/09/2013
2.00	Transferred to updated template	30/04/2015
3.00	Review of Public Order Authorisation Levels	22/10/2015
4.00	Cyclical review - miscellaneous new information provided within most sections of the document which has been widely re-formatted.	06/06/2018
5.00	Content fully reviewed and revised following the Principles of the SOP Review	10/12/2020