



## Professional Training and Scrutiny

Taser training doesn't simply focus on the Taser itself. Officers are trained to assess the correct circumstances where Taser could be used, to identify when the use is proportionate, legal and necessary and about their accountability for their actions.

### Application Process

All police officers within Surrey and Sussex Police who are identified to carry Taser must submit a written application, be recommended by their supervisor (sergeant or above) and supported by an officer of at least the rank of Superintendent. The Taser application process is intended to assess the suitability of the candidate to become an Authorised Taser Officer. Officers must also be up to date with their Officers Safety Training, First Aid training, must pass an eyesight test and an assessment is also made of their discipline history for suitability. If the candidate meets all these requirements they then move on to the Taser Initial Course.

### Taser Initial Course

The course is an intense four-day programme made up of formative and summative phases, consisting of the following key elements:

- Classroom based learning - Professional Standards, Law, and Policy and Procedure
- Practical exercises and drills
- Live fire training
- Qualification shoot
- Scenario based training

Over the four days, the candidates are assessed throughout and must demonstrate consistency at an acceptable level in each competence in order to pass.

### Refresher Training

If successful, officers will take part in an annual one day refresher course. During this, the officers will undergo further learning and assessment, updating them on things which may have changed since their last course and ensuring all aspects of their performance meet the required standards.

### Justification

Every time an officer uses, or offers their Taser for use for example 'red dotting' a subject, they must justify their actions demonstrating that they have considered all tactical options open to them. Every use of Taser is recorded and reviewed in a Post Incident Procedure. In Surrey and Sussex, these are conducted by an officer of at least the rank of Inspector. All uses of Taser are reported to the Home Office in great detail, including those where young or otherwise vulnerable people are involved.

#### Accountability

Each Taser has a 'data port' which records when it is used. This is logged electronically and can be viewed and scrutinised at any time.