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Police Investigations &  
Review Commissioner

13 MARCH 2019

# Investigation Report

Discharge of Attenuating Energy  
Projectile (AEP) and Taser  
Troon  
2 June 2018

## **BACKGROUND**

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On the morning of Saturday 2 June 2018, police officers were called to an incident in North Shore Road, Troon, in response to reports of a man causing a disturbance and threatening to harm himself with a knife.

Around 0700 hours officers found an intoxicated 23-year-old man who was armed with a large knife, behaving in an unpredictable and erratic manner and threatening to harm himself with the knife. Armed police officers were sent to the incident to assist their unarmed colleagues. Over the next half an hour, officers attempted to negotiate with the man to surrender the knife, but he refused.

The man's behaviour subsequently became even more erratic, waving the knife at officers and threatening to stab himself in the throat. An Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) then discharged an Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) baton round to stop the man. However, he quickly recovered and continued his errant behaviour. Another firearms officer then discharged a Conductive Energy Device (CED) X26 Taser at the man who was then incapacitated, allowing officers to control and arrest him, removing the threat to himself, the officers and the wider public.

## **REFERRAL TO THE PIRC**

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Police Scotland referred the incident to the PIRC on 4 June 2018 in terms of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 as amended, and the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (Investigations, Serious Incidents and Specified Weapons) Regulations 2013. Under the Act, all incidents of Police Scotland's use of firearms, including the discharge of PAVA, must be referred to the PIRC for independent assessment.

## **PIRC INVESTIGATION**

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During the course of the investigation, PIRC investigators visited the incident scene, obtained copies of existing statements from police officers and other civilian witnesses and interviewed the police officers involved. They also obtained and examined CCTV footage, Police Scotland documentation, computer records, telephone and radio communications.

## **PIRC FINDINGS**

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Following investigation the Commissioner found that:

- The man's actions posed a danger to himself, the responding officers and potentially the wider public. In order to avoid him causing himself or others serious injury, one AFO discharged his AEP, followed by another AFO discharging his Taser, which resulted in the man being incapacitated sufficiently for him to be disarmed and arrested by officers of Police Scotland.
- The use of both AEP and Taser in the circumstances was necessary, proportionate and justified.