

Investigation Report

Submitted to Police Scotland

Serious Injury Following Police Contact

Location: Glasgow

Date: 8 May 2020

27 May 2020



BACKGROUND

On Friday 8 May 2020, in Glasgow, a 32-year-old man received a serious injury when in police custody.

At about 1325 the man entered a Pharmacy in Glasgow, ignoring the social distancing guidelines issued under emergency Coronavirus legislation and demanded Methadone from staff for the full weekend. When this was refused, the man became verbally abusive towards the Pharmacy Staff. He left the Pharmacy but returned a short time later and spat and coughed at a member of the Pharmacy Staff.

A member of the public within the pharmacy took hold of the man and removed him from the premises. The man threatened to shoot the member of the public and burn down the Pharmacy premises.

Police officers were called to the incident, arrested the man and placed him in handcuffs. The man told the officers that he had Coronavirus. He was placed in a police van where he deliberately struck his head on a seat causing a cut to his forehead before he then struck his head with handcuffs, further injuring himself.

The man was taken to hospital, where officers put on full COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) before entering the Hospital. Following treatment to a cut on his forehead, the man was released into police custody.

The man was charged and remanded in custody.

REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 11 May 2020, Police Scotland referred the incident to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) in terms of Section 33A (c) of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (as amended) and the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (Investigations Procedure, Serious Incidents and Specified Weapons) Regulations 2013.

PIRC INVESTIGATION

The investigation focused on the police response to the incident under COVID-19 restrictions and procedures.

During the course of the investigation, PIRC investigators obtained statements from police officers and civilian witnesses and examined STORM Command and Control incident logs, briefing papers and CCTV footage of the incident.

PIRC FINDINGS

The investigation finds:

- The man's injuries were self-inflicted after he was arrested;



- His behaviour was extremely concerning and distressing for the pharmacy staff and arresting officers given the current COVID-19 crisis;
- The police officers involved conducted themselves professionally and their response was proportionate and necessary.

