

Investigation Report

Submitted to Police Scotland

Discharge of PAVA spray

Location: Glasgow

Date: 2 May 2020

20 July 2020



BACKGROUND

On Saturday 2 May 2020, Police Scotland discharged PAVA spray at a 30-year-old man and 23-year-old woman during a disturbance within a flat in Glasgow involving a number of individuals .

Following reports of a disturbance, officers arrived at the flat in Glasgow. The 30-year-householder refused to open the door and threatened the officers with violence. As a result, they used a '*police issue enforcer*' (manual battering ram) to force open the door.

On entering the flat, the officers were met by the householder who became aggressive and lunged at officers and attempted to strike and kick them. Feeling threatened, an officer drew his PAVA spray and issued a verbal warning prior to discharging his PAVA at the man. This was effective and allowed officers to gain control and arrest him.

At that point a 23-year-old woman attacked the officers by throwing glass bottles and crockery at them and refused to stop. She was issued with a verbal warning by an officer prior to discharging his PAVA spray at her.

The woman continued her aggressive behaviour towards the officers and she was issued with a further warning by a different officer before discharging his PAVA spray at her which was effective, enabling officers to arrest her.

Two other men were also found to be present and were initially handcuffed to ensure officer safety. However, they were later released and advised to go home in accordance with Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance.

The 30-year-old man and 23-year-old woman are both subject to a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

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 33(A)(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 use of PAVA spray in the context of the COVID-19 Regulations. During the course of the investigation, PIRC investigators obtained and reviewed statements from police witnesses.



They also examined Command and Control incident logs, training records and force standard operating procedures. At the time of the incident the officers were trained and authorised to use PAVA and personal safety equipment.

PIRC FINDINGS

The investigation finds:

- The police officers involved in this incident conducted themselves professionally and correctly, with the discharge of the PAVA spray being justified, proportionate and necessary to prevent further injury to the officers concerned and assist in bringing the incident to a safe conclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were made.

