

# Investigation Report

Submitted to Police Scotland

Discharge of PAVA spray

Location: Paisley

Date: 6 May 2020

30 July 2020



## BACKGROUND

On Wednesday 6 May 2020, Police Scotland responded to a disturbance at a flat in Paisley involving several people who were contravening social distancing guidelines issued under emergency Coronavirus (COVID-19) legislation.

When police officers arrived they were threatened with violence by the householder, a 36-year-old woman. During her arrest she struggled violently with the officers and attempted to assault them. A 26-year-old man emerged from the flat and shouted aggressively at the officers, who drew their PAVA spray and warned him about his behaviour.

The woman continued to struggle violently, injured one of the officers and made attempts to grab his PAVA spray, at which point the officer discharged the PAVA spray. With the assistance of other officers she was brought under control. The 26-year-old man was arrested after he continued to act aggressively and made threats towards the officers.

The 36-year-old woman and 26-year-old man are both subject to a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

## REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 7 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 use of PAVA spray and aftercare provided in response to the incident. .

## PIRC FINDINGS

The investigation finds:

- The incident stemmed from a report of a breach of the COVID-19 legislation.
- The police officers involved in this incident conducted themselves professionally and appropriately, with the discharge of the PAVA spray being justified, proportionate and necessary to prevent further injury to the officers and assist in bringing the incident to a safe conclusion.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were made.

