

Investigation Report

Submitted to Police Scotland

Discharge of PAVA Irritant Spray

Location: Glasgow

Date: 4 May 2020

20 August 2020



BACKGROUND

On Monday 4 May 2020, Police Scotland responded to a report from a member of the public that several people had gathered within an address in Glasgow in contravention of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) legislation.

On arriving at the address, officers attempted to speak with the 26-year-old householder, who appeared to be in an agitated state and under the influence of drink or drugs, and his 28-year-old brother.

Both men behaved aggressively and forcibly pushed one of the officers and brandished a broken hockey stick at both officers. Due to their violent actions, one of the officers discharged PAVA spray at both men, bringing the situation under control.

Both men were arrested and three other people who had been present were issued with fixed penalty notices for contravening the Coronavirus legislation.

The 26-year-old and 28-year-old men were both reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 6 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 focussed on the use of PAVA Irritant spray during the incident and under COVID-19 restrictions and procedures.

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.

