

Investigation Report

Submitted to Police Scotland

Serious injury following police contact

Location: Edinburgh

Date: 1 May 2020

20 August 2020



BACKGROUND

About 1.20 am on Friday 1 May, 2020, police were sent to an address in Edinburgh after receiving a report of a man breaking into garden sheds. The 35-year-old fled as police arrived and was tracked by a police dog which found him hiding in bushes.

He was instructed to stay still but instead he grabbed the dog, which reacted and bit him several times on the ankle. The man was arrested and found to be in possession of a number of implements, including a large knife.

Police took the man to hospital for treatment, where he was continually abusive to NHS staff and the officers, and at one point had to be physically restrained by police.

The man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 4 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 as a notifiable serious incident.

PIRC INVESTIGATION

During the course of the investigation PIRC Investigators examined statements from civilian and police witnesses, examined STORM command and control logs, Airwave radio transmissions and the police dog bite report.

PIRC FINDINGS

The investigation finds:

- The man broke into a number of garden sheds. When police officers and a police dog arrived, he was tracked and found to be hiding in bushes. When he grabbed the police dog by the neck it reacted and bit him on the ankle causing a serious injury;
- The deployment of the police dog was proportionate and in accordance with police procedures;
- The man's continual abusive behaviour, towards NHS staff and police officers, was concerning and distressing given the current COVID-19 crisis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were made.



