



TAYSIDE POLICE

'Here for you'

POLICY

METHOD OF ENTRY (MOE)

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 **'Method of Entry'** is a generic term used in connection with the employment of suitably qualified officers effecting forced entry into buildings or other structures. This document is intended to illustrate the standard operating procedures adopted by this Force, specific to the equipment and practices employed by those persons suitably qualified in method of entry techniques. It sets out clear guidelines for the appropriate use of Method-of-entry trained personnel and resources for both pre-planned and spontaneous deployments. The document also provides terms of reference for the use of reconnaissance, the categorization of tools and techniques, training requirements and other general guidance.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 This section will record the Force's position on use of the Method-of-entry techniques and how this policy has developed.

USE OF FORCE

- 2.2 This policy is based on the contents of the nationally agreed procedures contained within the A.C.P.O.S Manuals of Guidance on Public Order and Police Use of Firearms and should be used in conjunction with said manuals.
- 2.3 An individual's right to life and public safety are paramount considerations when it comes to the use of forced entry. In this regard, the use of Method-of entry techniques in the Tayside Police area as a tactical option, is derived from the ACPOS Manual of Guidance on Public Order.
- 2.4 Due regard is also given to the provisions of The Human Rights Act, 1998, and the findings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Officers planning and commanding MOE operations will therefore have to ensure that plans are designed around the principle that a reasonable relationship of proportionality between the means employed and the aim pursued exists – see Conflict Management Model (Appendix 1).

- 2.5 Operational activity will be proportional but at the same time will:
- Infringe as little as possible on the rights and freedoms an individual is entitled to usually enjoy in this country.
 - Meet the objectives of the domestic law in Scotland.
 - Not be arbitrary, unfair or based on irrational considerations.
 - Be balanced against the severity of the effect.
- 2.6 This policy should not in any way prevent officers from forcing entry in a spontaneous manner, in order for example, to save life or in the immediate pursuit of a suspect. In spontaneous circumstances where a delay in using trained personnel with the correct equipment is likely to result in serious injury or loss of life, entry should be affected by whatever means available.
- 2.7 During pre-planned operations, the use of force should be proportionate to the threat level, taking into account all available intelligence. All MOE officers will wear full PPE during these operations.

THE USE OF METHOD-OF-ENTRY TRAINED PERSONNEL

- 2.8 Tayside Police's forced entry capability will be provided via a tiered system as follows:
- Level 1** – Proficient in the use of the **ENFORCER** only, on standard inward-opening doors. (Not currently in use within Tayside Police)
- Level 2** - Proficient in the use of the **ENFORCER, 2 PERSON RAM and HOOLIGAN TOOL**, for inward and outward opening doors and glass door entries.
- Level 3** - Proficient in the use of the **ENFORCER, 2 PERSON RAM, HOOLIGAN TOOL, AXE, SLEDGEHAMMER, BOLT-CUTTERS, RABBIT HYDRAULIC TOOL and BLOWER HYDRAULIC/PNEUMATIC TOOL**, for inward and outward opening doors, ground floor window entries, wall deconstruction and other specialised entry techniques.
- 2.9 All MOE officers together with their level of competence will be contained on FOCUS, the Force's resource management database. Only trained personnel of the appropriate level, in full PPE, should be used to affect forced entry.

THE LAW

- 2.10 Police officers and police staff have an individual responsibility to ensure that they are properly trained and informed about the extent of their legal powers and the context within which those powers can be properly exercised. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 ***FORCED ENTRY*** - The application of force to effect entry through obstacles, commensurate to the operational aim.