

GWENT POLICE **PERSONAL AND OPERATIONAL SAFETY** **POLICY**

**(INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS, HANDCUFFS,
INCAPACITANTS)**



Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

APP is the national body of consolidated professional practice and guidance for policing and is authorised as such by Chief Constables' Council. It significantly reduces the amount of national guidance in circulation, encourages the use of professional discretion and brings consistency to all authorised police practice.

It has the same legal status as previous guidance; it is not the law and so, while police officers and police staff can be expected to have regard to APP in discharging their responsibilities, the status of APP is advisory. There may be circumstances when it is perfectly legitimate to deviate from APP, provided that there is clear rationale for doing so.

This Procedure has been checked against APP. Gwent Police has adopted the APP provisions, with supplementary information contained herein, which reflects local practice and the needs of the communities served by Gwent Police.

PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE.

1.0 Aims of Policy

The aims of this policy are, that where police officers or police staff carry appointments they are provided with all the relevant personal safety training, and equipment to ensure a positive outcome in relation to:-

- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Contributing to the delivery of justice in a way that secures and maintains public confidence in the rule of law.
- Ensuring the protection of life

The following items of equipment are the operational appointments of Gwent Police:

- Warrant Card.
- The rigid handcuff.
- The ASP 21 inch expandable baton.
- PAVA Incapacitant spray.

All officers will carry their warrant card when on duty. All members of police staff will carry their force identification card when on duty.

Gwent Police will provide all police officers with operational appointments, and where appropriate support staff will be issued with the necessary appointments to aid them in their role and provide for their personal safety. Gwent Police will ensure that staff are properly informed and trained in when to carry appointments in order to protect both the health and safety of the officer and the public.

The ACPO approved Personal Safety Manual of Guidance will be consulted in relation to the following important areas:-

- Use of force
- Medical implications
- Personal management skills
- Communication skills
- Searching skills
- Use of force reporting and writing skills
- Handcuff skills
- Unarmed skills
- Incapacitant skills
- Limb restraints
- Baton skills
- Edged weapon skills
- Custody office skills
- Vehicle skills

The ACPO approved First Aid Manual will be consulted in relation to the following important areas:

- First Aid Skills for Police Staff and Officers
- First Aid Skills for Custody Unit Staff
- Enhanced First Aid Skills (First Aid at Work)
- Specialist First Aid Equipment
- Water Awareness Training

Risk assessments in relation to implementing the above must be undertaken.

2.0 The Legal Basis

The legal basis for the carrying of operational appointments is found in the following legislation:

Section 6 Police Act 1996

Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967

Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

The Criminal Code Commission Bill 1897

Common Law

Section 54 Firearms Act 1964

Prevention of Crime Act 1953

Health and Safety Act 1974

The Police (Health and Safety) Regulations 1997

Human Rights Act 1998 Articles 2 to 14

3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance

The policy has been checked for compliance with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts: the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme

This policy should aim to comply with the organisations Welsh Language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the language scheme.

5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

6.0 Identification Section

Policy Title:	Personal and Operational Safety
Reference:	122/3 a issue 5
Chief Officer Lead:	ACC
Service Area Owner:	Operational Support
Department Responsible:	Operational Training Unit
Links to other Policies/ Procedures:	Health and Safety, Operation Orders, Event Planning, Wearing of Uniform - Extraneous to Normal Duties, Critical Incident Reporting, Information Security, Data Protection.
Implementation Date:	9/2/15
Review Date:	Feb17