

**Subject:** RESPONSE RE USE OF TASER

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**Date:** 16/05/2013 11:48

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**CC:**



# Media Statement

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**Issue Date:** 16/05/2013

## **RESPONSE RE USE OF TASER**

On 28 July 2011, officers were called to an incident in St Helens, where a 12-year-old girl, who was armed with two knives in a public place, was threatening to harm herself and behaving aggressively towards the police.

Taser was deployed as a means to safely detain the girl and prevent serious harm to both her, the public and the officers. The girl was uninjured and was subsequently arrested and cautioned for the offence.

Officers instigated the normal post-incident procedures to determine the full circumstances of Taser deployment and found that it was fired in line with force guidelines, as a proportionate and appropriate method to deal with the situation.

Merseyside Police officers are highly trained and skilled to deal with any number of situations that they may face. The use of Taser offers them a further tool in dealing with incidents where the safety of the public, the individual or officers themselves is under threat. It has proved to be effective in reducing injuries to all parties during arrest.

Note for editors - Merseyside Police policy regarding the use of Taser is in line with Home Office guidelines and dictates that a number of considerations are taken into account before a Taser is deployed. One such consideration is the age of the individual involved, but ultimately the safety of the public and the individual, who is often in a state of high vulnerability, are the priority. Merseyside Police officers who carry Taser are given specialist training and are re-assessed annually.

*Issued by Kathryn Doyle on 16/05/2013 11:48:38*

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