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**FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

IR/PD/sg

29 September 2010

**JBB CIRCULAR NO: 027/2010**

**TO: ALL BRANCH BOARDS**

Dear Colleagues

**REVOCAION OF PRO-TECT LICENCE TO SUPPLY TASER**

It has been brought to our attention, and well publicised in the media, that the company Pro-Tect systems, the sole distributor of Taser in the UK, has had its licence to supply revoked.

The attached documents are self explanatory and we ask that Branch Boards monitor the situation. In particular, where there are instances of failure when the equipment has been activated and bearing in mind the Force is unable to have the equipment assessed due to export rules not allowing them to be sent back to the USA and not being able to return them to Pro-Tect systems.

We would also be interested in any risk to our members where TASER has not been deployed due to the lack of availability, or where a force has decided not to deploy due to cost savings associated with not having any spare cartridges.

If any JBB has any information please forward to Paul Davis, Secretary of the Operational Policing Sub-Committee, through Jasmin Anderson at [jasmin.anderson@polfed.org](mailto:jasmin.anderson@polfed.org).

Yours sincerely

**IAN RENNIE  
General Secretary**





## Association of Chief Police Officers WORKING GROUP ON CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICES

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28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

This circular may be of interest to Chief Officers and others responsible for Firearms Policy or Training and Command of Operations requiring the deployment of armed officers, and may be located on POLKA. Disclosure of the contents of this document with respect to the Freedom of Information Act should only be considered following consultation with the ACPO Armed Policing Secretariat

Dear Chief Constables, Commissioners, Working Group Members, Chief Firearms Instructors, Armourers,

### Pro-Tect Systems Limited

I would like to draw your urgent attention to the attached Home Office letter dealing with the Home Secretary's decision not to renew authorities allowing Pro-Tect Systems Limited to import and sell Tasers. A temporary authority, effective until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, remains in place allowing the company to lawfully dispose of its stock. During the period of this temporary authority forces can continue to trade with Pro-Tect Systems Limited.

I will now work with the Home Office to identify an alternative supplier. In the meantime, if forces envisage any critical issues in respect of supplies of Tasers or cartridges please contact the Armed Policing Secretariat and we will endeavour to assist.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Chesterman**  
**Working Group Lead**



## Home Office

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28 September 2010

Dear Simon

### **REVOCAION OF PRO-TECT LICENSE TO SUPPLY TASER**

I wanted to confirm that the Home Secretary has decided not to renew the authorities issued under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 which allow the current supplier in the UK, Pro-Tect Systems Limited, to import and sell Tasers. Section 5 authorities are subject to strict conditions regarding transfer and secure transportation and the Home Secretary was not satisfied that the company had complied with them at all times.

Following an investigation by Northamptonshire Police, the Home Secretary is satisfied that the company supplied X12 Tasers and XRep ammunition to police forces contrary to their authority, which only allowed them to supply these items to the Home Office Scientific Development Branch who were evaluating their effectiveness.

I understand that this decision will raise a number of queries from local forces, and I would be grateful if the ACPO Armed Policing Secretariat could circulate this letter to all forces to provide some clarity on those queries. To be clear:

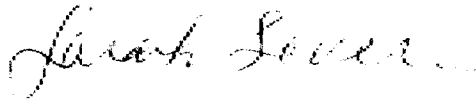
- The decision not to renew Pro-Tect's licence applies to all models of Taser and to all Taser ammunition. It does not apply to other areas of Pro-Tect's business or Taser-related accessories which do not need to be covered by a section 5 authority
- A short term limited authority has been granted to Pro-Tect until 31 December 2010 to allow the company to dispose lawfully of its remaining stock of Tasers. This allows them only to sell or transfer their remaining stock of X26 Tasers and cartridges to police forces. Pro-Tect will not be able to acquire new stocks if orders outstrip existing stock. It would be helpful if forces could work co-operatively when ordering Tasers and ammunition in the immediate future.

- Any faulty Tasers or cartridges should not be returned to Pro-Tect but should be retained in force armouries.
- None of this impacts on police forces' retention and use of existing Tasers and ammunition.

I would be grateful for ACPO's support in ensuring that police forces continue to have adequate Taser stocks to cover any transition period that may follow from Taser International identifying a new UK supplier.

You will appreciate that in light of the ongoing IPCC investigation into the Northumbria shootings, and the possibility of charges being laid against the company, it would not be appropriate for me to give any more details about this case at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Severn'.

Sarah Severn  
Deputy Director, Public Order Unit