

1. Policy Identification:

Policy Title: Bomb Threat, Suspect/Explosive Device and Response to Explosions Policy

Policy Reference No: 45/01

Policy Ownership: Uniform Operations

Department Responsible: HQ Operations

Person Responsible: Head of Operations.

Policy Implementation Date: 25th September, 2001

Date of Review: June, 2008

Next Review : June, 2009

2. Policy Statement:

This policy has been drafted and audited in accordance with the principles of Human Rights Legislation, Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Personal data and information gathered in connection with this policy will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. All disclosures made in connection with this policy will be considered and sanctioned by the appropriate department.

3. Legal Objectives:

Dyfed Powys Police is committed to implementing procedures that protect individual's Rights under the European Convention on Human Rights as provided for by the Human Rights Act 1988.

The objectives of this policy is to maintain public safety and minimise crime and disorder in accordance with Articles 1, 2,5,6,8, of the Human Rights Act.

Dyfed Powys Police have a positive obligation under Article 2 to take preventative operational measures to protect an individual whose life is at risk from the criminal acts of others. This duty requires positive action and the Force will be in breach if it fails to do all that could reasonably be expected of it to avoid a 'real' and immediate risk to the life which it knows or ought to have known about. It is therefore vitally important that all officers and police staff carefully consider the legal parameters of each of these rights and freedoms at every stage of policing. The procedures of Dyfed Powys Police aim to uphold an individual's rights under the above mentioned Articles in accordance with the positive obligation to implement such procedures. However, there may be circumstances where the procedures will infringe individual human rights.

4. Police Objectives and Aims:

4.1 Dyfed Powys Police has a duty and a public expectation to :

- keep the peace,
- maintain law and order,
- protect life and property
- investigate, prevent, reduce and detect crime,
- identify, apprehend and prosecute offenders AND
- provide an efficient and effective service in the discharge of its functions.

4.2 The primary aim of this policy is to provide a framework for the response to bomb threats and suspect explosive packages in order to coordinate the police response and scene management in respect of terrorist or criminal acts. It also provides for the procedures to be followed when explosive ordnance is found, where no criminal offence is suspected.

4.3 The principal lawful authority for the exercise of the powers and duties outlined in this policy are :

- Common Law
- Terrorism Act 2000
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (and subsequent Regulations introduced there under).
- Critical Incident Policy.
- Community Tension Policy.
- Dyfed Powys Police Major Incident Manual.
- Home Office Counter Terrorist Contingency Manual.

4.4 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Force

- Critical Incident Policy

- Community Tension Policy
 - Dyfed Powys Police Major Incident Manual.
 - Home Office Counter Terrorist Contingency Manual.
- 4.5 In the event of any incident involving bombs, suspect packages or explosions the Force will coordinate the response to the incident in order to :
- Save human life in conjunction with other emergency services and agencies,
 - Protect property within limits that are reasonably practicable to achieve,
 - Contain the scale and nature of the incident,
 - Protect and preserve the scene,
 - Investigate any criminal offences which may have been committed.
- 4.6 The intention of this policy will be:
- To safeguard or minimise loss of human life.
 - To protect or minimise damage to property.
 - To preserve and collate evidence/intelligence.
 - To deal with each incident in a clearly defined manner.
 - To minimise disruption to the community.
 - To deal with incidents of this nature as effectively as possible utilising experts with specialist knowledge e.g.
 - Police Search Advisors (POLSAs)
 - Explosive Detection Dog Section Teams
 - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams (EOD).
 - Forensic Experts.
 - SO15 Counter Terrorist Command Unit.

All the above personnel are regularly trained and assessed in incidents of this nature and can provide expert knowledge and guidance.

5. Introduction:

- 5.1 Terrorism is worldwide and the very nature of terrorism tends to leave the initiative with the terrorists and as such they can select their targets, times, tactics and techniques to gain the maximum advantage.
- This policy contains instructions, which **WILL BE** followed by all members of staff when dealing with **ALL bomb calls and incidents involving explosive devices.**
 - It is imperative that **all** bomb calls are **treated as genuine** until proved to the contrary.
 - The utmost caution will be exercised when dealing with a suspect explosive device.
 - **All such bomb threat calls or any incident involving or suspected to involve explosive devices, must immediately be reported to Force Communications Centre.**
 - It must be remembered that bomb threats/incidents may well be perpetrated/motivated by a broad spectrum of subjects/beliefs/ ideals. In dealing with such incidents the police must give **early** consideration to engagement with communities and/or a broad range of specialists and advisors available from within

the police service, partner/other agencies or lay advisors (through the Force Independent Advisory Group).

- 5.2 Procedures will be implemented as appropriate in accordance with the Contingency Plan "Response to Bomb Threats/Incidents". This Contingency Plan has been divided into separate categories to deal with differing situations. Not all of the Sections will be required for every incident but circumstances can change which requires reference to other Sections, e.g. bomb threat reported and then a suspect device found. Reference should be made to the appropriate Section covering the type of incident. Where evacuation and cordoning procedures are necessary these must be strictly enforced. The information and advice contained in this document is derived from National ACPO directives and will be used on receipt of **ALL BOMB THREATS**.
- 5.3 This policy has been produced by Dyfed Powys Police and contains instructions in relation to the police action to be undertaken in the event of BOMB THREATS, SUSPECT DEVICES, EXPLOSIONS and non criminal UNEXPLODED BOMBS/MISSILES. This document is supported by the Dyfed Powys Police Major Incident Plan, The use of Search Team Policy, the Force Policy on Critical incidents, the Force Community Tension Policy and the Home Office Counter Terrorism Contingency Planning Manual.
- 5.4 The Force trains Police Search Advisors (POLSA)s and Counter Terrorist Search Trained officers in all aspects of systematic search, IED recognition, bomb threat call response and in dealing with suspect packages and hoax/malicious devices. POLSAs will be contacted in line with the Contingency Plan – "Response to Bomb Threats/Incidents" and the dealing with such incidents will be in accordance with that document.
- 5.5 The Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operations Centre (JSEODOC) will coordinate ALL responses for specialist teams to deal with explosives and suspect devices. They will respond to a request made by the Force via the Communications Centre Inspector through whom all requests from Divisions must be made. Responsibility for the examination and disposal of suspect explosive devices rests with the Joint Service Ordnance Disposal Centre. Details of the manner in which tasking should be undertaken can be found in the Contingency Plan - Response to Bomb Threats/Incidents.
- 5.6 Details of the information required by the EOD can be found in the Contingency Plan – Response to Bomb Threats/Incidents.
- 5.7 The policy of Dyfed Powys Police will therefore be to deal with such incidents in line with the Contingency Plan – "Response to Bomb Threats/Incidents."