

## BTPF BRIEFING NOTE ICPRA

### TASERS

#### LESS THAN LETHAL / CURRENT BATONS / CS GAS ISSUED

### TASERS

The Chief Constable of the British Transport Police has taken the very safe option of saying that he will authorise Tasers once they are on general issue throughout the United Kingdom police service, some 44 police forces in total. The Federation fully supports the issue of Taser to all officers.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR POLICING

Currently Police Community Support Officers (CPSOs) number 300 in a Force of 2800 sworn officers. A number of railway employees have joined as Specials and receive 4 hours of their normal weekly pay serving as officers.

The work of CPSOs is constantly being expanded into traditional policing roles, including limited powers of detention of members of the public.

Consequently their demand for protective equipment is currently limited to quick cuffs and protective vests. The next potential issue is Batons / CS Gas etc to subdue those people who don't wish to be detained.

Second Tier Policing provides the Force with a relatively cheap, especially in relation to pensions, visible presence.

Currently they receive the same training as sworn officers during their first five weeks. Sworn officers receive two years training.

They earn, in London the same as probationary constables, more in some cases. As a police officer progresses through his service his yearly increments and pension liabilities increase making sworn officers increasingly costly.

We believe the introduction of PCSOs has been backed by the Government as a cost saving exercise. The public are confused regarding their limited role and their training is limited. This is evidenced in numerous incidents where they have not acted correctly. We suspect that delusion among the public will set in as they realise the shortcomings of the lesser service provided by PCSOs. We also believe that it is only a matter of time before the PCSOs are placed regularly in conflict situations.

Other issues of concern include the impact of 2012 Olympic Games and mobility between the BTP and other forces being hindered by inflexible pension rules.

25<sup>th</sup> September 2008