

CPD I General Matters 3M: PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR ARMED POLICE PRESENCE IN CROWN COURTS AND MAGISTRATES' COURT BUILDINGS

- 3M.1 This Practice Direction sets out the procedure for the making and handling of applications for authorisation for the presence of armed police officers within the precincts of any Crown Court and magistrates' court building at any time. It applies to an application to authorise the carriage of firearms or tasers in court. It does not apply to officers who are carrying CS spray or PAVA incapacitant spray, which is included in the standard equipment issued to officers in some forces and therefore no separate authorisation is required for its carriage in court.
- 3M.2 This Practice Direction applies to all cases in England and Wales in which a police unit intends to request authorisation for the presence of armed police officers in the Crown Court or in the magistrates' court buildings at any time and including during the delivery of prisoners to court.

Emergency situations

- 3M.3 This Practice Direction does not apply in an emergency situation. In such circumstances, the police must be able to respond in a way in which their professional judgment deems most appropriate.

Designated court centres

- 3M.4 Applications may only be made for armed police presence in the designated Crown Court and magistrates' court centres (see below). This list may be revised from time to time in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and HMCTS. It will be reviewed at least every five years in consultation with ACPO armed police secretariat and the Presiding Judges.
- 3M.5 The Crown Court centres designated for firearms deployment are:
- (a) Northern Circuit: Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, Preston, Manchester Crown Square & Manchester Minshull Street.
 - (b) North Eastern Circuit: Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield, Teesside and Kingston-upon-Hull.
 - (c) Western Circuit: Bristol, Winchester and Exeter.
 - (d) South Eastern Circuit (not including London): Canterbury, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Luton, Maidstone, Norwich, Reading and St Albans.
 - (e) South Eastern Circuit (London only): Central Criminal Court, Woolwich, Kingston and Snaresbrook.
 - (f) Midland Circuit: Birmingham, Northampton, Nottingham and Leicester.
 - (g) Wales Circuit: Cardiff, Swansea and Caernarfon.