

a small group of officers [redacted] capable of covert forward deployment and integration with surveillance. This provides additional covert options to the TFC which increase capability and flexibility. (CTSFO team option only)

Implications and considerations

- The support of a MASTS team would enable firearms commanders to test evidential thresholds and intelligence sources to ensure evidential and / or positive identification requirements are satisfied.
- A response capability is in place to prevent violence to any person which satisfies ECHR / HRA principles
- A covert policing operation may assist with identification of the subjects and intelligence gathering around their intentions.
- The deployment of armed surveillance and firearms teams, with the necessary support and command Functions, [redacted]
- Dedicated surveillance officers (SCO35) and covert firearms officers (SCO19 CTSFOs) are [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- The armed operation is conducted in the public domain with associated risks to pedestrians and motorists.
- Police tactics aim to mitigate any danger or intrusion involving innocent members of the public with the application of containment and control.

When the TFC is in possession of intelligence or information, which suggests the subject/s, is in possession of the firearm, a covert armed interception using the MASTS team should be undertaken.

This would take the form of a **vehicle interception** or **foot interception**. The decision on best geographical location to implement the armed interception is to be made by the TFC, with the advice of the OFC in respect of operational and environmental considerations.

Armed interception

If an arrest or detention option is required, it is not known at this time which would be the most appropriate method of deployment. This will depend upon operational and environmental considerations, advice around which is supplied by the OFC.

Armed interception of subjects on foot

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Armed interception of subjects in vehicles

SCO19 firearms team are able to configure covert armed response vehicles to instigate an armed vehicle stop.

There are three main types of stop that can be utilised when dealing with subjects in vehicles, these are; **"Natural Stop"** This is where the subject vehicle stops of its own accord without any request from the police. This may include parking at the side of the road or in a car park.

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"Compliant Stop" This is where the subject voluntarily pulls over to the side of the road when signaled to do so.

"Enforced Stop" This is where the subject vehicle is brought to rest without prior warning, by the positioning of police vehicles to provide containment. This may necessitate vehicles approaching from the rear, side, or the opposite direction.

Once the vehicle has come to rest the subjects can be dealt with by utilising a numbers of tactics, these include, Armed Enquiry, Containment, Communication and Extraction.

This will be determined by the application of the NDM based upon factors such as numbers of subjects, their actions, and the perceived level of threat.

Implications and considerations

- Interception location and time can be carried out when it was safest for police and public
- Risks to all persons can be minimised through careful planning and co-ordination
- Removes vulnerabilities encountered when dealing with innocent persons at a fixed location
- Enables more effective positive identification of subject prior to arrest
- Reduces opportunity for destruction of evidence
- Increased element of surprise which is tactically advantageous and may increase safety through restriction of opportunity
- Takes armed operation into public domain increasing risk to public.
- Operation is more unpredictable than at a fixed location and therefore more difficult to control
- Increased risk of escape over an operation at a fixed location as containment is more difficult to achieve
- Operation is resource and time intensive

On many MASTS based deployments a Covert armed vehicle interception utilising 'Enforced Stop' and 'Extraction' is often the preferred tactical option. It is accepted that this is a rapidly implemented tactic to dominate the occupants of a vehicle - its use must be proportionate to the threat posed. On some occasions it may be appropriate not to immediately extract occupants but to contain them and call them out under control.

In a covert interception the use of blue lights and sirens immediately prior to interception is not normally carried out as it is anticipated that the non compliant actions of the subject would lead to them trying to make off. However, in some circumstances it may be assessed that the activation of warning equipment in the final seconds before the car is stopped may increase awareness of Police presence whilst minimizing the risk of a pursuit / breakout.

Overt support to Covert operations

On some operations it may be appropriate to consider the support of overt ARV crews to assist in carrying out a vehicle interception. This could be for a number of reasons including any uncertainty in relation to the firearms intelligence and also the need to hide the fact that a covert operation is being undertaken. In circumstances where the firearms intelligence is weak it may be more appropriate for overt crews to undertake a Natural or Compliant stop with an armed enquiry.

Incidental Contact

SCO19 officers are trained, and authorised to make incidental contact with subject vehicles, using police vehicles in order to carry out an enforced vehicle stop. Additionally officers may exercise their judgement in forcing vehicle contact, in circumstances where it is believed decamp of an armed suspect may present a danger to the public.

Ram Rounds

SCO19 Firearms teams are trained to fire a tyre deflation shotgun round if immediate driver compliance is not obtained. This is a police and public safety contingency which prevents a breakout and high speed

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Tactical Options -

The following tactical arrest options are available to the TFC to support this covert operation:

1. Arrest subject(s) at identified premises **prior** to the commission of an offence
2. Conduct Mobile Armed Surveillance to establish sufficiency of evidence and on the direction of the TFC intercept/arrest Subject(s) **prior** to substantive offence taking place
3. Intervene/ arrest subjects **prior** to offence taking place at a known location
4. Intervene/Arrest subjects **during** the commission of the offence
5. Arrest subjects **after** the commission of the offence

1. Arrest subject(s) at identified location prior to the commission of an offence

Action here would support disruption tactics to thwart the offence, if there was specific intelligence of firearms possession and a firearms warrant had been obtained. It may also used as an option as a result of intelligence to conduct armed arrest operations at the home addresses of any identified subjects at a time that was safe to do so. The specifics tactics for conducting such an armed operation would be considered dependent on the intelligence and threat at the time of planning.

Implications & Considerations

- In the short term this option would prevent the full offence being committed
- Prevents violent criminal acts being committed against any persons which therefore meets ECHR / HRA principles
- Subjects are isolated in premises and it provides a safe contained environment with the minimum risk to the public.
- Full tactical planning around the premises could be conducted to minimise any risks these arrests may cause
- The timing of this operation would be determined by the police taking into account all safety issues
- If used as a disruption tactic under a Firearms Warrant there may not be sufficiency of evidence to arrest for any offence
- There are multiple subject within this OCN, unless arresting for conspiracy offences it is unlikely there is sufficiency of evidence to arrest all members simultaneously
- It relies on police positively identifying the home address of the subjects and controlling them at the premises
- This option relies on sufficiency of evidence to arrest subjects for firearms offences or conspiracy offences at this stage

2. Conduct Mobile Armed Surveillance and if sufficiency of evidence to arrest is established on the direction of the TFC intercept/arrest Subject(s) prior to any substantive offence taking place

This option would involve identification and surveillance control of the known subject(s) followed by arrests of the subject(s) and any identified associates once sufficiency of evidence of their intention to commit an offence or capability in terms of firearms possession is obtained.

Implications & Considerations

- This would prevent any intended armed criminal acts offences being committed