

12. As previously explained, it is not possible to explain or include every potential operational circumstance or activity within a training curriculum. The legal powers that officers have, the law and policies relating to the use of force and the execution of their duties is however continually reinforced and tested during tactical training scenarios. They are required to explain and justify, where appropriate, the actions and decisions that they have taken.

12.1. There is no specific content in the NPFTC in respect of smashing car windscreens. There is however some more general content relating to breaking car windows in the relevant modules. The version of D3 that was extant in December 2015 includes:

12.1.1. *Subjects may refuse to open the door of a locked vehicle or the vehicle may have darkened or mirrored windows. It may be necessary to break the glass by striking the corner of a window using an appropriate device.*

[COP0000014. Module D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles. V2.1 dated 1 July 2014 pdf. \(para 3 page 14\).](#)

12.1.2. This concept is also included in the 2015 version of D8 with the wording expanded to include:

12.1.3. *Based on application of the NDM, it may be necessary and proportionate to break the windows of the vehicle in order to:*

- *See into a vehicle with obscured or blacked-out windows to identify or negate the presence of an immediate threat from the occupants*
- *Open a locked door to gain control of, detain or extract a subject*
- *Create a distraction to minimise risk and gain tactical advantage.*

*Where it is necessary and proportionate to break the glass, this may be achieved by striking the corner of a window using an appropriate device. A conventional, un-adapted police firearm is not designed or intended for this purpose and should not be used as such. However, it may be that due to the perceived level of threat in a dynamic situation no other options are immediately available. It must be remembered that the use of a police weapon for these purposes may result in muzzle damage, the alteration or removal of sights, the possible discharge of the weapon and the accidental release of the magazine.*

[COP0000004. Module D8 Provides Mobile Armed Support to Surveillance. Draft version 0.4 dated 11 August 2014 pdf. page 59.](#)