

“The structure must be clearly articulated to all those involved in the operation. Where time permits and it is appropriate to do so, briefing notes or flow charts showing the structure can aid people’s understanding of it.”

81. The relationship between the Firearms Commanders and the Senior Investigation Officer is specified in the APP which states:

“The function of the strategic firearms commander (SFC) or tactical firearms commander (TFC) must not be [our emphasis] undertaken by the senior investigating officer (SIO) responsible for the investigation of the offence(s) for which the firearms operation is being conducted.”¹³

Comment

82. It is noted that the Strategic Firearms Commander states in a document referred to as the FA3 that:

*“I have considered the suitability of DCI FE16 to act as Tactical Firearms Commander in this operation and I am satisfied that he is not the SIO.”*¹⁴

83. It is, however, also noted that DCI FE16 was on a ‘day to day’ basis the line manager of Det. Inspector Murray who was the SIO for Operation Ankaa. This report therefore addresses the extent to which there was sufficient separation of the TFC and SIO roles to the degree intended by the APP.

The Training and Operational Experience of the Officers

84. The extent to which the training, experience and accreditation of the officers in this case complied with the standards set out in the APP and procedures which form part of the National Accreditation process is also considered within this report.
85. We have not been supplied with individual training records for each of the officers involved, however, their respective statements set out their levels of training and accreditation in respect of the roles they performed.
86. It should be noted that in respect of command roles, the APP distinguishes between ‘Occupational’ and ‘Operational’ competence for Firearms Commanders and Tactical Advisors. The relevant section reads:

Occupational and Operational Competence within Command Roles

“When an officer has attended and satisfactorily completed a course of instruction based on a command or tactical advice module in the national police firearms training curriculum (NPFTC), they will be assessed to be occupationally competent to perform that role.

¹³ See APP Command Roles and Functions: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/armed-policing/command/>

¹⁴ See IPCC report (paragraph 166).