



Working together for a safer London

MetWhistle

Standard Operating Procedures



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Title and Version	MetWhistle Standard Operating Procedures. (V1)
Purpose	Pre read & training source.
Relevant to	All MPS MetWhistle users
Summary	States relevant information and guidance on the use of a MetWhistle device within the MPS.
Creating Branch/OCU/Directorate	Physical Education Branch - People Development.
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1.0 Foreword

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to orientate you on the policy, requirements and content of the training you will shortly be undergoing and to increase your knowledge base in regard to blowing whistles (not to be confused with whistle-blowing: for which you may refer to your mandatory NCALT instruction course) before the commencement of your MetWhistle training.
- 1.2 This pre read/reference manual has been designed to facilitate the MetWhistle user within the defines of the Metropolitan Police Service level one MetWhistle training course to blow on MetWhistle device in a safe and competent manner.
- 1.3 The information contained within this document reflects MPS policy & best practice, and should be regarded as such.
- 1.4 Level 1 MetWhistle course aims and objectives:

Aim:

To enable students to operate the MetWhistle safely and effectively according to Metropolitan Police Service guidelines and policy.

Objectives:

At the successful conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- a) Perform the MetWhistle safety tests prior to engaging the device.
- b) Demonstrate individual competency in stopping vehicles using the MetWhistle.
- c) Safely complete a 5090b MetWhistle use on the street form.
- d) Demonstrate an effective knowledge of whistling hazards.

2.0 Rationale for using MetWhistles within the MPS

- 2.1 The use of whistles is an effective tool in tackling and reducing crime & disorder. It is to this end that the current training system has been devised and developed.
- 2.2 Whistle training will enable the use of MetWhistles within the MPS for the following functions:
 - a) Stopping vehicles, pedal-cycles, and pedestrians safely and quickly.
 - b) Drawing attention to an area, person, or object.
 - c) Apprehending suspects.
 - d) Drawing attention and respect from the public.

3.0 Dynamic Risk Assessment

- 3.1 The following should be considered standard practise.

- 3.2 Under current MPS policy all officers and police staff have a responsibility to implement control measures in respect of an identified risk and bring to notice any system failures.
- 3.3 In the case of a dynamic risk assessment being carried out individuals will carry out a subjective identification of the hazard(s) based on their training, experience and professional guidance. As the incident progresses, the nature and number of hazards may change, resulting in the individual having to continually reassess the situation. Where there is a possibility that such risk assessments will be subject to further scrutiny, (e.g. following injury to anyone) then the reasoning behind any dynamic risk assessment should be recorded in an Incident Report Booklet (IRB).
- 3.4 A risk assessment(s) has been formulated for the use of whistles within the MPS and copies of these documents are available from MPS MetWhistle trainer(s). The training process will enable the officer to make a suitable assessment and decide on an appropriate level of action. This may include not using the whistle in certain extreme weather conditions or situations.

4.0 Equipment

- 4.1 All work equipment issued including whistles, ancillary equipment and apparel will be regarded as work equipment and personal protective equipment and are subject to the following statutory requirements:

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992.

- 4.2 Whistles provided for operational use should conform to the specification as recommended by the MPS. Details of this specification are available from your MSP MetWhistle trainer(s) and Finance & Resource managers.
- 4.3 The user has a duty of care to ensure the whistle is the correct size and their mouthpiece is adjusted to them individually. Instruction regarding this process can be found further on in this document.
- 4.4 Before the start of a patrol the user also has a duty of care to ensure the pre whistling daily visual and serviceability inspection protocol or 'quick DIP check' is carried out correctly.

5.0 Ancillary Equipment

- 5.1 Exchangeable mouthpiece. These will be issued individually to officers.
- 5.2 All whistles should be fitted with a counter.

6.0 Protective Equipment and Clothing

- 6.1 The corporate risk assessment identified suitable clothing as part of the control measures that must be worn by MPS staff who are deployed to whistling police

patrols on a regular basis, e.g. when attached to a unit that deploys whistle-ready constables as part of daily patrolling strategy.

- 6.2 Gloves should be worn at all times during the handling or operation of a MetWhistle. The gloves must comply with the MPS clothing board dress code.
- 6.3 Eye protection must be worn at all times during the operation of a MetWhistle. The eye protection shields against wind, windborne particles and sun glare. Eye shields must comply with the MPS clothing board dress code.

7.0 MetWhistle Nomenclature

- 7.1 It is important that you are familiar with the parts of a MetWhistle before you start the course. The exact function of certain moving or stationary parts and mechanisms will be explained to you as the course unfolds. Please refer to **Appendix 1**.

8.0 MetWhistle 'Quick DIP Check'

- 8.1 The purpose of the MetWhistle 'Quick DIP Check' or to give it its proper name the 'Pre whistle daily visual inspection and serviceability protocol' is to ensure that the whistle is safe for use for that day. It is a quick but thorough check of all the key components of the whistle to determine if there is any damage, wear or metal fatigue which could adversely affect the safety or handling of the whistle. The protocol is as follows;
 - 8.1.1 Casing: Check the outside of the whistle for any cracks or metal fatigue that might cause the whistle to fragment or fail during use.
 - 8.1.2 Mouthpiece: Remove any mouthpiece that was already attached to the whistle before you retrieved it, and replace it with a fresh one.
 - 8.1.3 Blow hole: Check the blow hole to confirm that there are no blockages that might prevent the whistle from creating a clear sound, or that might cause it to explode when blown into.
 - 8.1.4 Counter: Take a note of the current value on the counter in your notebook. Give one long blow to confirm that the counter is incrementing. Record the new number in your notebook and on a 5090b whistle use on the street form to account for your use of the MetWhistle (under grounds locate: DIP Check).
 - 8.1.5 Lanyard: If there is a lanyard attached, pull on it to ensure that it is fastened in place and secure.
 - 8.1.6 Drop check: Hold the whistle at a height of about 2.0 metres and drop it to the floor. Check for signs of stress or damage that might indicate that the whistle may fail during use.

9.0 Cleaning

- 9.1 It is important to keep your whistle clean.

9.2 Any accretion of muck in the whistle could have negative safety implications:

9.2.1 Compromised tooting volume.

9.2.2 Increased risk of infection from standing fluids.

9.2.3 Dangerous variation of pitch from the Met-approved acceptable range.

9.3 The MetWhistle should be cleaned at least once per week. The suggested protocol is as follows:

9.3.1 Insert a pipe-cleaner into the whistle.

9.3.2 Jiggle the pipe-cleaner around until you are satisfied you have cleared out all the muck.

9.3.3 If you consider that the whistle may contain standing fluids, tie a small handkerchief to the pipe cleaner, and stuff that inside the whistle.

9.3.4 Again, jiggle until you are satisfied that you have cleared out all the fluid.

9.3.5 Safely dispose of the pipe-cleaner.

9.3.6 Note the time and date of the whistle cleaning in your notebook.

10.0 Procedure for stopping a vehicle

10.1 An officer wearing hi-visibility uniform may stop a vehicle using their MetWhistle by following the procedure outlined below.

10.2 In sight of the driver, blow one long toot on the whistle.

10.3 Record the number of the toot and the whistle's serial, time and location of the toot on a fresh 5090b use of whistle on the street form.

10.4 The vehicle will come to a rest safely and you may now speak with the driver.

11.0 Procedure for stopping a pedal cycle

11.1 An officer wearing hi-visibility uniform may stop a pedal-cycle using their MetWhistle by following the procedure outlined below.

11.2 In sight of the cyclist, blow one long toot on the whistle.

11.3 Record the number of the toot and the whistle's serial, time and location of the toot on a fresh 5090b use of the whistle on the street form.

11.4 The pedal cycle will stop and you may now speak with the cyclist.

12.0 Procedure for stopping a pedestrian/suspect

12.1 A uniformed officer may stop a pedestrian using their MetWhistle by following the procedure outlined below.

- 12.2 Discretion must be used with regard to tooting with the aim of stop a suspect or pedestrian who is not running, as it increases the risk that the public may interpret the toot as an excessive use of force.
- 12.3 Officers needing to stop a pedestrian will often be in a foot-chase scenario, and there will be multiple safety implications.
- 12.4 In particular, it is very important for the officer to resist the urge to close their eyes whilst blowing on the whistle to help control the following risks:
 - 12.4.1 Stumbling.
 - 12.4.2 Crashing into a bystander.
- 12.5 To stop the pedestrian safely, blow one short, loud, toot on the whistle, and shout “Stop! Police!”
- 12.6 If the pedestrian does not stop, considering all safety factors, the officer may proceed to blow up to 3 more toots in quick succession.
- 12.7 The last toot may be a long toot if necessary.
- 12.8 Record the number of the toots and the whistle's serial, time and location of all toots on a fresh 5090b use of the whistle on the street form once the pursuit has been brought to a safe conclusion.
- 12.9 Tooting on your whistle is not a substitute for shouting “Stop! Police!”, and indeed it is important that the tooting be accompanied with an instruction so as to allow the pedestrian an opportunity to prevent further toots.

13.0 Procedure for drawing attention to an object or person

- 13.1 An officer who comes across an object or person needing attention from nearby emergency services such as LAS or LFB may use their whistle for the purposes of saving life or property as follows.
- 13.2 Take several steps back from the object or person, so as to be visibly distinct from the person or object you wish to draw attention to, and to prevent damage or harm to the object or person from the whistle itself.
- 13.3 Confirm that LAS or LFB are nearby by use of your Airwave Radio. Inform them of your exact location by describing things that you can see.
- 13.4 Having stopped pressing your push-to-talk button on the radio, blow one long toot on the whistle. This will allow LAS or LFB workers to locate you using stereoscopic hearing.
- 13.5 It is important to respond to shouts such as “Hello?” that may be directed at you by directly repeating what was shouted. ie. If an LAS or LFB worker shouts “Hello?” to you, you should reply with “Hello!”
- 13.6 If no response is received after 1 minute, blow your whistle again.

- 13.7 Repeat this procedure, blowing one long toot every minute, until you are exhausted or help arrives.

14.0 Officer safety

- 14.1 The officer safety model can be compromised by excessive or poorly timed use of the whistle.
- 14.2 When blowing the whistle, you are compromising all phases of the officer safety model that rely on sensing changes in the environment around you. It is often impossible to hear changes to your environment whilst the whistle is blowing.
- 14.3 Try to time your use of the whistle so that you are in another phase of the officer safety model whilst you blow. You could – for instance – be considering which tactics are best to use whilst blowing the whistle, as this phase of the model does not rely on your external senses.
- 14.4 Focus more on your visual sensory input than your audible sensory input whilst you, or a colleague, are tooting on your whistle. Do not close your eyes whilst tooting!
- 14.5 Take care that your colleagues nearby are aware that you are about to use your whistle. If you believe they have not seen you bringing the whistle to your mouth, shout “Whistle!” to give them warning of what you are about to do.

15.0 Form 5090b

- 15.1 Alongside the introduction of the MetWhistle, the MPS are introducing the 5090b form to provide accountability for necessary usages of the MetWhistle on the street.
- 15.2 As with all other uses of force, officers tooting their MetWhistle will be required to provide evidence demonstrating that the usage was proportionate, legal, accountable, and necessary.
- 15.3 All officers should be familiar with the 5090b and officers equipped with the MetWhistle should carry copies of the 5090b with them in case of use.
- 15.4 It is beyond the scope of this document to provide training in the use of the 5090b form. A copy is attached for reference.

16.0 Practical Assessment

- 16.1 You will be required to undergo and pass a practical assessment as a part of the level one training course. The elements of the assessment are as follows:
- 16.2 The level one assessment consists of the following:
 - a) Vehicle stop drill.
 - b) Cycle stop drill.
 - c) Pedestrian stop drill.
 - d) Completion of the 5090b form after a pursuit.

- e) Completion of a compound-5090b for multiple-blow scenarios.
- f) Stair descent drill of no less than 6 but no more than 8 steps.
- g) Fast draw.

16.3 The assessment will be a pass or fail. There is no written test. Your MPS trainer(s) will carry out the assessment.

16.4 Should you fail any of the elements for the practical test you will be retested only on the element you failed. It will be down to the discretion of the MPS trainer(s) how many attempts you will be given. Should the conclusion be reached that further training is required this will be arranged locally. You will not be allowed to use the MetWhistle in an operational capacity and you will not be issued a mustard-yellow card until you have passed the practical test.

17.0 Additional Information

17.1 You are reminded that you have a duty of care towards yourself and your colleagues. When preparing for a MetWhistle enabled patrol you should ensure that you have suitable clothing for the weather conditions and an effective system for obtaining food and fluid.

17.2 Do not underestimate the physical impact of prolonged whistling during the course of the day.

17.3 Do not overlook the risks to members of the public who may be standing near you when you engage the MetWhistle.

Appendix 1 – The parts of the MetWhistle

