

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Ethics Referral/Outcome Form

1. <i>Topic or event being considered</i>	Durham 1 -17 – use of PAVA incapacitant spray within Durham Constabulary custody suites.
2. Desired outcome	To seek the views of the External Ethics Committee on whether custody officers/staff should be permitted, within force policy, to carry and use PAVA spray.
3. Potential options and option appraisal	<p>Custody Staff do not routinely carry personal safety equipment whilst on duty. When violent detainees are brought into custody support will be available from the arresting officers who will be present. However detainee's can become violent at any point whilst they are in custody often leaving custody staff vulnerable. Historically CS spray could not be used in custody as due to its chemical composition it would contaminate the whole custody suite once it entered the ventilation system. PAVA, does not present the same problem and thus PAVA is now a viable option. The local Police Federation are keen that those custody staff who are properly trained and would wish to carry PAVA are enabled within force policy to do so.</p> <p>The IPCC make it clear that they consider the use of TASER within the custody environment of particular interest to them as they feel that the threshold for such a use of force to be higher than in a public place. Whilst PAVA is a different tactical option, there are parallels in terms of the considerations that exist. Further briefing will be provided verbally at the External Ethics Board meeting on 18/1/2017</p>

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4. Actual option chosen and appraisal of decision making and application	
5. Recommendations	<i>Individual</i>
	<i>Durham Constabulary</i>
	<i>External</i>
6. Action taken (including referral to External Ethics Committee)	Referred to External Ethics Committee and discussed at meeting held on 18 January 2017.
7. External Ethics Committee Comments/ Recommendations	The Committee agreed with the approach the Force had taken and suggested that usage was monitored closely to ensure method was used appropriately and effectively and not discriminately as a result of staffing reductions.
8. Outcome	