

# Operational Support Unit – OSU



## Reference Number: P30

This is South Yorkshire Police's Statement of Agreed Policy on Operational Support Unit, OSU. This policy relates to localised procedures only and therefore not supported by Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

The OSU encompasses the following areas, some of which are covered by separate APP related policies:

- Firearms Support Group (see [P1 - Armed Policing](#));
- Roads Policing Group including Collision Investigation (see [P18 - Appointment of Senior Investigating Officer for Fatal Road Traffic Collisions](#));
- Safety Camera and Ticket Processing;
- Dog Support Unit;
- Mounted Section;
- Public Order Training, including MOE below, (see also [P16 - Public Order](#));
- Airport Policing Group;
- Operational and Contingency Planning Group, see ([P2 - Civil Emergencies](#))

## Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy and its associated procedures is to provide those Officers and Staff who may be called upon to deal with incidents involving the areas above, with the knowledge and information necessary for them to safely and effectively resolve those incidents. It is aimed at providing all Police Officers and Staff with access to definitive advice about their roles and responsibilities and the procedures concerned with these incidents. All staff are selected, trained and accredited to standards set externally.

The National Intelligence Model will be used to focus enforcement activity to detect, disrupt and challenge criminal use of the roads.

## Deployment of Taser in Non-Firearms Operations

See [P1 - Armed Policing](#) policy.

## Search

Certain OSU Officers are trained in specialist search capabilities. This is different and separate to general search, which every Officer is trained to carry out and is subject to a separate unrelated policy.

### **Method of Entry (MOE)**

Method of Entry (MOE) training encompasses basic and specialist modular training. This training is available to the Tactical Support Group and district tasking/proactive teams.

The content, delivery and auditing of all MOE training will be the responsibility of the Head of Public Order Training or Deputy. All MOE training will take full cognisance of National requirements, local threat assessed needs, emerging trends and Health and Safety requirements (for further information see the Generic Risk Assessment for Pre-planned Operations Involving Forced Entry into Premises).

For all other Public Order training, see policy [P16 - Public Order](#)

### **Dog Support**

The OSU Dog Support aspect will provide 24 hour cover in respect of General Police Duty (GPD) dogs in support of Local Policing and pre-planned Operations. In addition, the OSU can provide a Dog PSU and Specialist Search Dog capability in respect of searches for;

- Drugs/Cash/Weapon
- Explosives
- Victim recovery (Blood/Bodies)
- Passive Drugs Operations (Person Screening)
- Firearms Support of Armed operations

### **Mounted Section**

The OSU Mounted Unit deploy to all the geographical areas of South Yorkshire. Mounted Officers are Police officers that use horses as a mode of transport. The approachability provides an easy access to intelligence gathering. The unit provides a search capability for all types of terrain, in all weathers. The list below outlines some of the main functions that the unit carries out:

- Search of large open or wooded areas of land for Missing/Vulnerable People and discarded property related to incidents.
- Support neighbourhood policing with prevention of antisocial behaviour and intelligence gathering.
- Patrol town centres/city centres for public reassurance and the prevention of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Ceremonial duties at high profile events.
- Patrol at the counties 5 football grounds and horse racing events. Other events included Tramlines and other music festivals.
- Crowd control and public disorder tactics at sporting events and protests.

All officers are trained to a National Mounted Standard. This includes horse welfare and equine health. Officers and horses receive regular training of Mounted Police tactics for

public disorder. All the training received is in line with the College Of Policing mandatory Standards. The Mounted Section are part of a national contingency and can be deployed throughout the UK on mutual aid. These can be sporting events or large public events like the Olympics.

### **Airport Policing Group**

South Yorkshire Police deployed a small team of officers to the airport in 2007 following the attacks at Glasgow Airport. The Airport Policing Group consists of 1 PS and 4 PC's they are solely responsible for all uniformed policing activity at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. In addition, they have joint responsibility for emergency planning and the development of contingency plans for all airport related scenarios.

### **PentiP**

The Penalty Notice Processing (PentiP) system provides a national solution for the processing of all Penalty Notices. It affects and supports all police officers, relevant staff and courts involved in the process of issuing penalty notices and collection of related penalties.

PentiP provides a platform for the standardisation of business process and supports the development and implementation of consistent national policy. As such, all officers and staff within South Yorkshire Police will only use the system in accordance with the [PentiP National Rules and Security Operating Procedures](#). As a force, we have procedures to audit and monitor user activity to prevent misuse of national data.

Data retention timescales have been defined at a national level. This will provide national consistency. See attachment [Pentip Data Retention](#).

The PentiP system has been assessed to determine the areas of high risk. This will be reviewed regularly, to ensure the policy and the system's users are compliant with National guidelines, this will formulate the local system audit. The following areas will be covered by the audit:

- Appropriate usage
- Appropriate levels of access
- Appropriate handling of data
- Data Quality
- Nominal Edits
- Compliance with data standards

PentiP has been developed to support the requirements of Management of Police Information (MoPI) Code of Practice. All PentiP processing will be in accordance with the Data Protection Act Principles and the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information and Diversity Legislation.

Please see also, the latest definition from the College of Policing for [vulnerable and repeat victims](#).

### **Legal Framework**

- **The Human Rights Act 1998** (which gives further effect to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights) and in particular **Article 2 Right to Life**
- **Section 3 (1) Criminal Law Act 1967**
- Criminal **Procedures and Investigation Act 1996** and in particular **Section 23(1) Code of Practice**
- Common law, in particular provisions in respect of self-defence and **Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984** and accompanying **Codes of Practice**
- **Section 76 Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008**
- **Misconduct in a Public Office**
- **The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012**
- **Section 23 Police Act 1996**
- **The Police Act 1997**
- **Work at Heights Regulations 2005**
- **Section 59 Police Reform Act 2002**
- **Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007**
- **Animal Welfare Act 2006**
- **Highway Code**
- **Data Protection Act 1998**

### **Associated Procedural Instructions**

This policy is supported by the subsequent procedural instructions

- **Pi30.6 - Fixed Penalty Notices**
- **Pi30.7 - Penalty Notices for Disorder**
- **Pi30.8 - FPNs – Traffic Offence Reports (TORS)/Graduated Fixed Penalties/Roadside Deposits**
- **Pi30.10 - Tactical Support Group - High Access (Working at Heights) Instructions**

Other relevant documents you may wish to consider are:

- **Health and Safety at Work (etc.) Act 1974**
- **Taser Standard Operating Procedures**

### **Equality Act 2010**

The Act creates a statutory requirement for all Functions and Policies (Including Procedural Instructions) to be analysed for their effect on equality, diversity and human rights, with due regard to the **General Equality Duty**.

In principle, this document has been assessed for discrimination, which cannot be justified, among other diverse groups.

The **Code of Ethics** published in 2014 by the College of Policing requires us all to do the right thing in the right way. It also recognises that the use of discretion in Policing is necessary but in using discretion, states that you should, "*take into account any relevant policing codes, guidance, policies and procedures*."

## Human Rights/Discretion

The purpose of providing policy is to give an indication to staff of the expected course of action. However it is not possible to cater for every possible combination of factors that would justify a departure from stated policy. The Human Rights Act 1998 requires the proper use of discretion at all times and nothing within this policy and associated procedural instructions prohibits the proper use of discretion in appropriate circumstances.

Where action is taken that has the potential to interfere with an individual's Human Rights, the reasons behind the making of the decision to act in that way should be recorded on the appropriate forms, or where this is not practicable, in pocket books or policy logs.

### Rights of redress for members of the public:

Anyone who feels that a member of staff has behaved incorrectly or unfairly, or who is dissatisfied with organisational matters, service delivery or other operational policing issues, has the right to [make a complaint](#).

Initial action should be taken in one of the following ways:

- Complain in writing or in person to the Senior Officer at the appropriate police station or to the Chief Constable of the force concerned.
- Visit a local Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Contact a Solicitor

### Rights of redress for South Yorkshire Police personnel:

South Yorkshire Police personnel who feel they have grounds for concern in relation to the implementation of policies may, as appropriate:

- Pursue concerns through their line manager.
- Contact a First Contact Advisor.
- Pursue a grievance formally through the South Yorkshire Police Grievance Resolution Procedure.
- Seek advice from their staff association or trades union.

Use procedural instruction [Pi23.11 - Management of Complaints](#), in the section entitled Handling Complaints relating to Direction and Control.

**Start Date:** 04/04/2016

This statement of agreed policy replaces previous ref P30.

#### **Review:**

This statement of agreed policy is managed by Superintendent, Operational Support Unit.

This policy and its Equality Analysis were last reviewed on: 14/07/2021

The date for the next review of this policy and Equality Analysis is: 14/07/2023