



Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 October 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

I am writing to inform you that, after close consideration of testing and assessments, I have taken the decision to approve a new model of Conducted Energy Device (CED), TASER® 10, for use by police forces in England and Wales. Police officers run towards danger, putting themselves in harm's way to protect us. I am committed to ensuring police have the resources, tools and powers they need to keep themselves and the public safe from harm.

My approval of the TASER® 10 will ensure police officers continue to have access to safe and effective equipment and provides an important tactical option for specially trained officers when facing situations with the potential for violence. While the TASER® 10 achieves its effect in the same way as other approved CEDs, it has several additional features which are designed to improve effectiveness at incapacitating a potentially violent person as safely as possible. This could lower the risk of harm to members of the public and officers and avoid the need for more injurious uses of force. These additional features include:

- Single probe deployments, allowing for more accurate probe placement, increasing effectiveness at longer and shorter ranges
- The ability to deploy up to 10 probes, giving 9 opportunities to effectively achieve incapacitation. However, similar to other models of Taser, only two probes can be energised to deliver each pulse with a maximum output of 44 sequential pulses per second.
- Higher velocity of probes, for more effective performance at longer distances and more effective probe placement at any distance. A new barb design to aid effectiveness by increasing the chances of successfully achieving skin contact and incapacitation
- The inclusion of a loud alert and pulsing light which could help to de-escalate situations.

The number and type of TASER® devices used in forces will remain an operational decision for police officers to determine in line with their individual assessments of threats and risks.

My decision to approve the TASER® 10 follows careful consideration of robust technical and medical evaluations and strategic, operational ethical and societal factors in line with the Code of Practice for Armed Policing and Police Use of Less Lethal Weapons.

Independent testing was conducted by a test house and reviewed by the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory. This testing concluded that the TASER® 10 performed broadly in line with other models of TASER® and produced no concerns as part of the testing process.

The Scientific Advisory Council on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) also carried out an independent assessment of the medical implications of the TASER® 10. SACMILL concluded that they do not expect any additional risks from the electrical currents (used to achieve incapacitation) of the TASER® 10 compared to other Taser models. Noting that irrespective of the number of probes that are in contact with a person, each discharge will involve the energisation of only one pair of probes, SACMILL note that the higher kinetic energy and probe length of the TASER® 10 could affect the severity of skin perforation. SACMILL also note that the College of Policing (CoP) already train officers to avoid firing Taser probes at vulnerable areas of the body and officers, custody staff and healthcare professionals will be made aware of injury potential, which will allow them to react to any health concerns presented. Copies of technical and medical reports will be published on gov.uk, alongside user handling trial reports by the College of Policing which concluded that, generally, most users preferred most elements of the TASER® 10 compared to other models of TASER®.

All police use of force must be reasonable, proportionate and necessary. Before an officer can be authorised to carry a CED, they must volunteer, be selected for training, pass a comprehensive training programme and show an appreciation of the physical and psychological effects of the device. This includes training to consider the potential vulnerabilities of a person and factors such as age and stature when assessing every situation. In addition, all officers must undergo annual refresher training in line with the most up to date training curriculum.

When confronted with a violent situation an officer uses this training and experience in conjunction with a nationally agreed decision-making framework which takes account of threat and risk, ethics and response options to decide the most appropriate use of force in the circumstances.

When officers take the decision to use force, including Taser, they are accountable through the law for their actions. Police are required to refer serious incidents to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), including those involving the use of Taser. All IOPC investigations are carried out independently of the Home Office.

Home Office publishes annual statistics on police use of force, including TASER® use. The latest statistics show that, of all CED uses where the category type was stated, TASER® was not discharged in 92% of cases.

We owe our brave frontline officers a debt of gratitude for the courage, commitment and dedication they demonstrate in keeping our communities safe. Today's decision demonstrates my commitment to ensure police officers have the resources, tools and powers they need to keep themselves and the public safe from harm. A copy of this letter will be placed in both House Libraries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime