



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

WORKING GROUP ON ARMED POLICING

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This circular may be of interest to Chief Officers and others responsible for Firearms Policy or Training and Command of Operations requiring the deployment of armed officers, and may be located on POLKA.
Disclosure of the contents of this document with respect to the Freedom of Information Act should only be considered following consultation with the ACPO Armed Policing Secretariat

Dear Force Firearms Leads

Standardised Call Signs For ARVs Travelling Cross Border

Work has been ongoing for some time in an attempt to identify a set of nationally agreed call signs, for those units likely to travel cross border in response to high risk operations. This work originated out of my Operation Bridge report into the response to the tragic events in Cumbria in June 2010.

Following extensive research and a scoping exercise by a national practitioner group, a preferred model was circulated for national consultation by the ACPO Information Management (Communications) Lead during 2012. Feedback from the consultation process was not supportive of the preferred model, as a consequence of the potential impact upon business as usual call signs across all areas of policing. Subsequently, at the National Police Interoperability Working Group in Jan 2013, I agreed to lead a "small steps" piece of work to initially identify an acceptable common call sign for ARVs purely when travelling cross border.

A series of options have been considered by practitioners and operational managers at the Armed Policing High Risk Tactical Advisory Group and a preferred option of plain speech has been identified. **This requires ARVs responding cross border, to a spontaneous request for mutual aid, to utilise plain speech in place of their in force call sign (e.g. "Greater**

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Manchester ARV Three to Staffordshire control”). Call signs utilised during daily in-force or formal collaboration business, remain unaffected.

This proposal has been ratified by the Armed Policing Working Group and I therefore now seek your support, in undertaking all necessary activity to implement this standard operating procedure within your force with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Chesterman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Simon Chesterman
Working Group Lead

cc. Chief Firearms Instructors