

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS OF LESS LETHAL WEAPONS (SACMILL)**

Annual Report

Financial Year 2013/2014

1. Introduction

The Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. It provides independent advice to Ministers of Her Majesty's Government on the medical aspects surrounding the use of less-lethal weapons. SACMILL took over this role in March 2012, when it assumed the responsibilities of its predecessor committee, DOMILL.¹

2. SACMILL Committee Structure

SACMILL comprises of:

- a. A Main Committee comprising the Chair, independent members, and ex-officio members from the MOD and Home Office.
- b. A Technical Committee comprising the Chair and independent members. There are no ex-officio members present at meetings of the Technical Committee; this ensures the integrity and impartiality of discussions, maintaining the independence of their advice. The role of the Technical Committee is to discuss and prepare appropriate and timely medical statements relating to LLW.
- c. The Chair of SACMILL, the Executive Officer and the Secretary make up an Executive Sub-Committee, which addresses routine matters outside of main Executive and Technical Committee Meetings. Normally the Secretary and Chair will execute this on behalf of the members, but may co-opt members as required.

3. Committee membership

The membership of SACMILL is made up of an independent Chair and members drawn mainly from the medical, academic and public sectors, selected to provide an appropriate balance of lay and medical expertise on the committee. All independent members are selected in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public

¹ Defence Scientific Advisory Council Sub-Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (DOMILL).

Appointments (OCPA) code of practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies. Members of SACMILL are appointed on a personal basis, not as representatives of a particular profession, employer or interest group, even when they may be members of other bodies.

The Chair and independent members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Defence for a fixed term in line with the composition and requirements of the committee, which should not exceed four years (chair) or three years (other independent members). The Chair and members may be re-appointed for a further term or terms, but the total period of service may not exceed 10 years.

4. Meetings of the Committee

During the year ending April 2014, the following committee meetings were held:-

- The SACMILL main committee met on 26th March 2014.
- The SACMILL Technical Committee met on 26th September 2013 and the 26th March 2014.
- No meetings of the SACMILL Executive Committee took place during this year.

5. Matters considered by the Committee

The principal business of the committee during this year related to considerations of the safety of less-lethal weapons (e.g. Taser, impact rounds, water cannon) employed or under consideration by the Police Services of the United Kingdom. Such advice is normally issued in the form of Medical Statements. During the year ending April 2014, several requests for advice were received and two formal assessments were issued by the Committee. These were submitted to the Home Office, and it is intended that these will be published once their advice has been formally considered.

6. Triennial Review

During this period, the Committee was the subject of a Triennial Review. The Chair and members of the committee assisted the Independent Reviewer with the collection of data

and other material and commented upon some of the early drafts. The Review was submitted to the Cabinet Office and is available online at the Gov.uk website.

7. Chair's update

SACMILL was formally established in March 2012, with its inaugural meeting being held in July 2012. The period April 13/14 therefore encompasses the first full year of the new committee's activity and this is the first formal Annual Report.

DOMILL (the predecessor of SACMILL) was convened 'as required'. To provide more structure for the re-constituted SACMILL, a new fixed schedule of committee meetings was organised (March and September) and an operating model was established for future work.

The year also saw a period of important relationship building with the appropriate stakeholders at the MOD, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) as well as key stakeholders such as the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Home Office Public Order Unit. The constitution, largely inherited from DOMILL, was also amended to reflect the new structure and operation, and incorporated into a new Framework Document.

An appropriate mechanism for adopting previous DOMILL medical reports was established to ensure that there was no hiatus in the 'cover' provided by these statements for the use of less-lethal weapons.

The initial terms of service for the independent members of SACMILL will terminate in April 2015, and that of the Chair in April 2016. Action is in hand to reappoint or elect new members as appropriate.

8. Nolan Principles

During the execution of their duties, all members of the SACMILL panel acted in accordance with the Government's *Code of Practice (COP) for Scientific Advisory*

Committees (December 2007) and the *Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies* (June 2011).

9. Point of contact

The Surgeon General's Secretariat in the MoD is the official point of contact for all queries concerning SACMILL.

10. Budgetary matters

As an Advisory NDPB, SACMILL does not employ staff nor incur expenditure on its own account. The budget for this committee is held by the Surgeon General's office of the MoD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RJ Flower', with a horizontal line underneath.

RJ Flower (Chair) August 2014.