

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, 10 March 2014

[REDACTED]

By email

Dear [REDACTED]

Provision of TASER use and injury statistics to the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL)

As you know, SACMILL's predecessor committee, DOMILL, were routinely supplied with short reports on TASER use in the UK. Initially provided quarterly, I gather that this later changed to annual reporting. This routine reporting was additional to DOMILL's standing requirement that the medical committee is to be informed as soon as possible after a serious adverse event occurs in association with TASER use (a requirement that also applies to the AEP system).

I understand that these reports were provided by the then Home Office Scientific Development Branch, who collated the use statistics from TASER deployment forms submitted by individual police forces. I further understand that the reports were initially sent to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), who would review them on behalf of DOMILL and highlight any individual circumstances of use that warrant the attention of the independent medical committee.

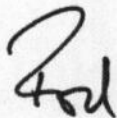
This process enabled DOMILL to confirm that medical outcomes associated with operational use of the TASER device were broadly in line with expectations, as elaborated in the independent committee's various medical statements on the TASER system. They also enabled any emerging trends to be identified.

I gather that the system of reporting of TASER use statistics functioned well when responsibility for its production lay with HOSDB, but that problems encountered during the implementation of a new database within the Home Office Public Order Unit have led to an interruption in the provision of TASER use reports for the specific purpose of independent medical review. I believe that the last formal provision of a report to DOMILL/Dstl may have been as far back as 2009.

Given that SACMILL has adopted DOMILL's earlier statements on the TASER and other less-lethal systems available to UK police, the task of maintaining a watch on medical outcomes now falls to the new committee. I would therefore be grateful if you would consider looking urgently at this longstanding issue with a view to advising SACMILL when the provision of TASER use reports for medical review is likely to resume.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Professor Rod Flower FRS. [REDACTED]