

# Deployment & Use of the L104A1 Launcher as a Less Lethal Option Policy Statement



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<b>This document has been assessed for:</b>	
Compliance with Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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## 1. Policy statement

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It is the Chief Constable's intention that the Heckler and Koch L104A1 Launcher, L60A1 Attenuated Energy Projectile (AEP) Baton Round, and L18A1 Optical Sight be available to officers as a less lethal option.

The use of the Launcher will be in accordance with current ACPO guidelines, as approved by the Home Secretary and will be governed by the over-arching principles and guidance contained in the ACPO Manual of Guidance on the Management, Command and Deployment of Armed Officers (The MOG).

The Launcher is not a replacement for a conventional firearm. It is a less lethal option which should be deployed and managed alongside conventional firearms and other tactical options. The Launcher is an impact weapon. Its intended method of operation is perhaps best described as a means of delivering a strike, similar to that from a baton, but over a greater distance.

Officers must give careful consideration to the use of the launcher against persons of either younger or older years and adults of smaller stature, but this document does not seek to preclude its use if it is deemed necessary under the circumstances.

Officers and custody staff must be particularly vigilant for any potential launcher-induced adverse effects.

Where a subject is suffering from a mental illness or disorder, officers must take appropriate steps to liaise with any health professional or local Authority bodies involved with the subject.