

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF POLICE			
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Routine		
	Police needs to place an order for TASER 10 with Axon by 4 August 2023		
Subject	Replacement of Police TASER equipment		
Date	28 July 2023	Ref	BR/23/13GA

Recommendations

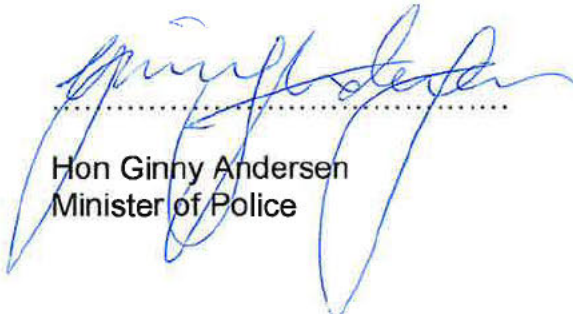
Police recommends that the Minister of Police:

- a) **note** that the current Police TASER (X2) has reached end-of-life, is no longer supported by Axon – the global supplier – and needs to be replaced with updated technology: the TASER 10.
- b) **approve** the delegated financial authority (DFA) up to the value of \$30 million to allow the Commissioner of Police to endorse Police's contract with Axon for the supply of TASER 10
- c) **note** that the value of the DFA sought could be subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations, and Police may need to obtain an updated DFA should this occur
- d) **note** that Police needs to place the order for TASER 10 with Axon by 4 August to meet the required replacement schedule
- e) **note** that the TASER 10 does not have an integrated camera
- f) **note** that Police will provide you with further advice around the potential introduction of Body Worn Cameras once further work is completed

Yes/No

- g) **note** that should the upgrade to the TASER 10 be delayed or halted, there is no ability to replace the current TASER X2 ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}
^{s9(2)(g)(i)}

Minister's comments and signature

 30/7/2023
Hon Ginny Andersen
Minister of Police

Replacement of Police TASER equipment

Purpose

1. This paper seeks your approval for delegated financial authority (DFA) up to the value of \$30 million to enable the Commissioner of Police (the Commissioner) to endorse Police's contract with Axon for the supply of TASER 10.

Police's TASER X2 fleet has reached end-of-life and requires replacement

2. The Police TASER programme is an important capability that enables Police to keep both its own staff and the New Zealand public safe.
3. Since the introduction of TASER in 2010, Police has operated the devices as a system with an integrated camera (TASERCAM), and the Axon evidence system (evidence.com) to store and access video footage. However, TASER X2 has reached the end-of-life and is no longer supported by Axon. They also no longer manufacture and supply TASERCAM.
4. In 2022, Police purchased all available global stock of TASER X2 and TASERCAM from Axon, to ensure that Police could continue to operate TASER until new devices were procured.
5. Police is now close to depleting this stock and has considered replacement options. Following considerable assessment, and engagement with stakeholders, the Police Executive has approved the replacement of TASER X2 with TASER 10.

Police stocks of TASER X2 will ensure operation until December 2023

6. Police currently has sufficient TASER X2 stock to ensure operation until December 2023. From this date, Districts will begin to be transitioned to the new TASER 10 model (pending procurement).
7. TASER 10 is the most advanced TASER on the market and has greater benefits than the current model used by Police. TASER 10 continues to provide a less-lethal option for staff to deploy when confronted with violent behaviour. It has improved functionality that could contribute to better operational outcomes – such as improving the range of deployment, connectivity and the incapacitation effectiveness.

Axon is the only global supplier of TASER

8. Axon is the sole supplier of TASER internationally.
9. Police has negotiated a contract with Axon to procure a like-for-like replacement of the existing TASER X2 with TASER 10. The contract is valued at approximately \$30 million (dependent on the exchange rate with the USD at the time of procurement).

10. s9(2)(b)(ii)

11. Initial implementation of the TASER 10 will be in Southern District, rolling out across the South Island from there, with the North Island to receive TASER 10 from 2024 onwards. This will allow Police to redistribute existing stock of TASER X2 to enable the continuous operation of TASERs across New Zealand while Police upgrades to the TASER 10.
12. Should the upgrade to the new TASER 10 model be delayed or halted, there is no ability to replace the current TASER X2 equipment. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Whole-of-life cost is above the Commissioner of Police's financial delegation

13. As the whole-of-life value of the Axon contract for the phased replacement of TASER X2 with TASER 10 is approximately \$30 million (at current conversion rate from USD), it exceeds the Commissioner's delegated financial authority of \$25 million, and therefore requires your approval.

The replacement TASER will not have an integrated camera

14. Unlike existing TASER devices, the replacement TASER 10 will not have an in-built camera. Rather, the new model relies on the use of a standalone Body Worn Camera (BWC) for camera technology.
15. The Commissioner has previously discussed with you Police's intention to proceed with the procurement and implementation of TASERs without camera-technology, to ensure that frontline staff continue to have the appropriate tools for the job.
16. In December 2022, the Police Executive agreed to proceeding with the procurement of replacement TASER 10 devices, despite the absence of an integrated camera. Introducing BWC needs careful consideration, particularly given its potentially wider application beyond TASERs. Police will undertake further work to consider the benefits, risks and likely costs of introducing BWC.
17. The Police Executive's decision to progress with procuring the TASER 10 product without BWCs is likely to generate interest across some communities and in media. There will be differing views on whether Police should be operating TASERs without the camera technology.
18. As previously discussed, the Commissioner has consulted with key stakeholders, including Marie Dhyrberg KC, chair of Police's external TASER Reference Group, and Associate Professor Khylee Quince, chair of the Understanding Policing Delivery independent panel. Both are comfortable with the proposed approach, providing there is timely consideration of BWC by Police.
19. It is worth noting that the Police Association has previously voiced support for BWC.

A range of considerations around BWC need to be considered

20. Existing research around the use of BWC in a policing context indicates that there is mixed evidence around the benefits of the technology. While some jurisdictions have recorded benefits under some circumstances, these benefits have not been sustained over the longer term. For example, an initial reduction in the use of Police force has been reported, but not sustained.
21. There are also reports of BWC having negative effects. For example, there have been reports of police officers perceiving greater scrutiny, leading to hesitancy to use their discretion to apply alternative resolutions. This has resulted in an increased arrest rate for minor violations.
22. There are also technical questions regarding the storage, access, use and transparency of BWC footage and considerable privacy implications that need to be considered.
23. s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED] The decision-making, either for or against the introduction of BWC, must be robust and well informed. There also needs to be consideration of whether the current legislative framework would adequately support the use of BWC technology by Police.

Next steps

24. Your approval is sought for DFA up to the value of \$30 million to enable the Police Commissioner to endorse Police's contract with Axon for the supply of TASER 10.
25. The order for TASER 10 needs to be placed with Axon by 4 August 2023 to ensure the availability of TASER 10 by December 2023.
26. Police is developing a communications plan in preparation for the rollout, to address any potential queries and clearly articulate Police's position. This plan will be provided to your office once finalised for your information.
27. Police will provide you with further advice around the potential introduction of BWC once the further work is completed.



Mike Johnson
Assistant Commissioner Assets and Capability

First contact	Mike Johnson, Assistant Commissioner Assets and Capability	s.9(2)(a) OIA
Second contact	Inspector Jason Ross, Manager Capability	