

CARRYING OF TASERS OR CAPTOR SPRAY IN COURT BUILDINGS

Following reports of officers being stopped from entering Court Buildings with Captor Spray or Taser's, we have sort clarification from the HMCTS Wales Head of Crime and also from the North West Region Chief Firearms Instructor. The following is the present position, which should be followed by all officers;

Tasers - Officers are not allowed to take Taser's into any court building and will be refused access by security.

This is national policy and is covered by the Senior Presiding Judge's guidance on armed police presence in court, issued in November 2012 and produced in consultation with ACPO.

The only exceptions are:

- Officers called to Court premises due to an emergency at the court.
- At specified sites where the Presiding Judge has given specific authority. The only such site in North Wales is Caernarfon Crown Court and such authority would only likely be given for situations where armed officers are required for security

Captor Spray – Uniformed Officers are allowed to take their Captor Spray into Court as this forms part of their PPE.

Officers in uniform should not be subject to search when attending court, although may be asked to show their Warrant Card.

Officers not in uniform will not be allowed to take Captor Spray into Court.

If there are any issues with the carrying of Captor refer security/ushers to the HMCTS Wales Head of Crime directions