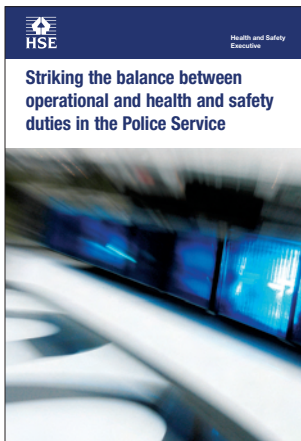


Striking the balance between operational and health and safety duties in the Police Service



Foreword

This guidance is intended to clarify how health and safety law will be applied to the operational circumstances of the Police Service, as this has been a matter of understandable concern to them and to HSE. It is intended to assist senior police officers in balancing risks, particularly in their wider duties to fight crime and protect the public, while meeting their health and safety at work obligations to the public as well as their staff. HSE recognises that in doing so officers need to consider complex and competing legal and moral demands and to make tough decisions in what are often extremely dangerous, emotionally-charged and fast-moving situations.

HSE initiated joint work with senior police officers and other leaders to clarify how police services can strike the balance between their operational and health and safety duties. The result of this collaboration is set out in the set of principles, which are by their nature high-level and will be underpinned by practical guidance.

Geoffrey Podger
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