



NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
COMMISSION

25 January 2008

**Press release: Immediate**

## **Concern about Deployment of Tasers**

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission today (25 January) has expressed concern over the deployment of Tasers this weekend by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

According to Chief Commissioner, Professor Monica McWilliams:

“The Human Rights Commission is continuing to examine the legal issues relating to the use of Tasers by the PSNI and has an ongoing concern that the police has not completed its Equality Impact Assessment on the use of these weapons. The PSNI’s approach to this issue therefore remains incomplete and inconsistent and Tasers should not be deployed until the equality and human rights impacts have been fully assessed.

We are surprised that the police are deploying this weapon after only a two day training programme. There remain genuine concerns about the safety of this particular technology. As such, concerns have yet to be addressed around the potential for violating Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the right to life and inhumane treatment. There are also serious concerns that following the initial deployment of these weapons there will eventually be much wider use made of them. These concerns reflect the situation in Britain where the deployment of Tasers has now been extended beyond specialised police units.”

**ENDS**

### **Further information**

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