

Assessing the Expandable Side-Handled Baton

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SIDE-HANDLED BATON

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Police Research Group: Police Research Series

The Home Office Police Research Group (PRG) was formed in 1992 to carry out and manage research in the social and management sciences relevant to the work of the police service. The terms of reference for the Group include the requirement to identify and disseminate good policing practice.

The aim of the Police Research Series is to present results of externally funded studies, and those carried out by the Police Research Group, in a way that will inform policy and practice throughout the police service.

A parallel series of papers on crime prevention is also published by PRG, as is a periodical on policing research called 'Focus'.

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Foreword

This is the second of two papers from the Police Research Group which considers the question of how to better protect police officers on duty. The first examined assaults on policers and identified a broad range of potentially preventive measures. This paper presents the results of in-force trials of alternative batons to the truncheon, and particularly the expandable side-handled baton.

The search for a suitable alternative to the truncheon began in earnest in 1992 when forces began trialling various straight baton alternatives. The uncertainties associated with the side-handled baton, however, has encouraged a more cautious approach to its introduction. The Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch has undertaken extensive scientific testing of the baton, including measuring its injury potential, following which in-force trials took place. Research was commissioned by the Police Research group to assess these trials and this report contains the findings and recommendations.

On the basis of this work, the consultants recommend that the expandable side-handled baton be allowed as an alternative to the truncheon and the Home Secretary has announced that he would back any Chief Officers who decided to introduce it. This report will assist Chief Officers in reaching their own decision about the merits of the expandable side-handled baton.

I M BURNS

*Deputy Under Secretary of State
Home Office
Police Department
September 1994*

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Executive Summary

Terms of Reference and Methodology

Our terms of reference were to assess the expandable side-handled baton (ESHB) as an alternative to the traditional truncheon. Our research involved thirteen forces, twelve of which participated in every element of the study.

We were also asked to comment on trials in two forces on the Straight Expandable Three Piece baton (SE3P) and Straight Expandable Two Piece (SE2P). These latter trials were much smaller in scale and scope than our trial of the ESHB: the conclusions we can draw about the SE3P and SE2P are restricted by this.

Key Conclusions

The overwhelming majority of police officers strongly prefer the ESHB to the truncheon. This is in part because the ESHB helps officers to defend themselves far more effectively than they were able to with the truncheon. At the same time, the ESHB appears no more likely to cause serious injury to members of the public.

The public accept the introduction of the ESHB. Our research showed that the substantial majority of those surveyed were in favour of the change from truncheons to the ESHB.

Although officers are generally very positive about the ESHB training they received, all forces could further improve the quality of this training by studying good practice elsewhere. For example, forces should provide pre-course material to officers so that they are suitably briefed before the course starts; forces should also make every effort to achieve the recommended ratio of one trainer to ten trainees.

Whilst the ESHB was generally effective, well liked and relatively safe in use, our limited review of other batons indicates that alternatives such as the SE3P may be more appropriate than the ESHB in certain circumstances. For example, the SE3P is very small when retracted, and appears more appropriate than the ESHB for covert use. However, our research on the SE3P was very much smaller in scale than that for the ESHB, and focused on police officer attitude. Our SE3P research did not include a detailed examination of its usage and safety, unlike our review of the ESHB.

Key Recommendations

We recommended in May 1994 that the ESHB should be allowed as an alternative to the traditional truncheon. The Home Secretary subsequently announced that he would back any Chief Officer in England and Wales who decided to introduce the Expandable Side-Handled Baton. The Secretary of State for Scotland announced a similar decision in relation to Scotland.

ESHB training should follow the approach used for this trial. This will help to ensure that officers use the ESHB in a way we have found to be effective and relatively safe.

All baton types are not the same: forces should consider the relative merits of different baton types in assigning batons to officers. The choice of baton should reflect officer role, policing circumstances and officer preference as well as relative safety of officers and the public with each baton type.

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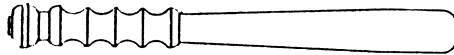
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Figure 1. Baton types and trialling forces

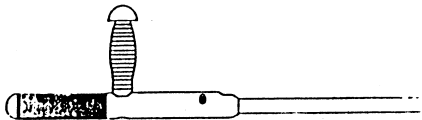
Baton Types and Trialling Forces

Truncheon



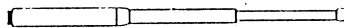
Standard Issue

Expandable Side-Handled Baton (ESHB)



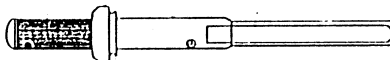
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Straight Expandable Three Piece (SE3P)



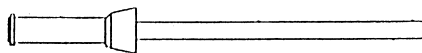
Hampshire
Avon & Somerset
Surrey
Merseyside
Devon & Cornwall

Straight Expandable Two Piece ("SE2P")

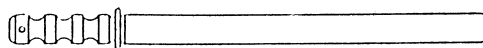


Metropolitan
Merseyside

One Piece Batons



Metropolitan
Northumbria
Dorset
Merseyside



Illustrations are not to scale

1. Introduction

Background

In 1992, the Police Federation called for the American side-handled baton to be issued to officers in this country. The Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, where police officers were captured on amateur video beating the motorist with their side-handled batons, raised serious concerns about this piece of equipment and the then Home Secretary decided not to allow trials of this baton to go ahead in this country. Concern centred around public acceptability of the baton, which was carried overtly and considered to give a more aggressive appearance to police officers. The manufacturer's claims for the ability of the baton to inflict injury also deterred its trial, as did uncertainty about the baton's ability to reduce injuries to police officers.

The decision not to allow trialling of the side-handled baton led forces to consider other "straight" batons as a replacement for the standard issue truncheon. There are a number of these, some rigid and some expandable, but they are all longer than the standard truncheon. Dorset Police began trialling a long straight baton late in 1992, and other forces began similar trials during 1993. The batons and the locations of their trials are shown in Figure 1 opposite.

In Summer 1993, the Home Secretary agreed to scientific evaluation of the expandable version of the side-handled baton. He confirmed that, subject to a satisfactory outcome of that evaluation, police forces could trial this baton. After extensive testing, the Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch subsequently commented favourably on the side-handled baton, paving the way for in-force trials.

The Home Office's Police Research Group, together with the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) Sub-Committee on Self-Defence, Arrest and Restraint, commissioned Touche Ross Management Consultants to monitor in-force trials of the expandable side-handled baton. Unlike the trials of "straight" batons which took place independently in trialling forces, the forces trialling the side-handled baton were brought together in a co-ordinated approach.

This report details the methodology, findings and recommendations of the trials.

Terms of Reference

Our primary terms of reference were to assess the expandable side-handled baton (ESHB) as an alternative to the traditional truncheon. We were asked to examine:

- public views about the acceptability of the baton;

- police officers' views about the utility and comfort of the baton;
- frequency and type of baton usage;
- injuries to police officers and others;
- the effect of training.

We were also asked to comment on trials in two forces on the Straight Expandable Three Piece baton ("SE3P") and Straight Expandable Two Piece ("SE2P"). These straight baton trials involved only 158 baton carrying officers, whilst the ESHB trials involved 1474 baton carrying officers. The small scale and limited scope of these straight baton trials allows us to provide only limited guidance on the relative merits of these straight baton alternatives to the truncheon.

Methodology

Our research involved thirteen forces, twelve of which participated in every element of our research. The twelve forces were: Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Devon & Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Strathclyde, Sussex, Thames Valley and West Mercia. In addition, the Metropolitan Police participated in some elements of our research as well as keeping us informed about the progress of their own force's trials of baton alternatives to the truncheon.

Our work consisted of five key elements, as follows:

- **collecting views and data on training** through observation of training sessions, questionnaire collection of data, interviews and group discussions with trainers and trainees. The form used by trainers to record relevant data on baton training sessions is given as Appendix 1;
- **collecting and analysing data on incidents** involving officers carrying batons in twelve forces in England, Scotland and Wales. In addition, we have collected data from officers carrying truncheons in "control" areas selected as comparable in policing terms with those "trial" areas where officers were carrying batons. The form used by officers to report relevant incidents is given as Appendix 2;
- **understanding the views of officers.** We consulted those carrying batons, those carrying traditional truncheons, and their supervisors, through a number

of group discussions held in London, Manchester and Glasgow. These were held after two months of the three month trial. At the end of the trial, we circulated a questionnaire to all officers carrying batons or truncheons in trial and control locations. This questionnaire, which sought to establish officers' perceptions, is given as Appendix 3;

- **analysing relevant force data** on matters such as sickness, injury, public comment and other relevant areas, so as to allow comparisons to be made between areas with officers carrying the baton and areas with officers carrying the truncheon. This data was collected on our behalf by the Liaison Officer in each force. The Liaison Officer Data Form is given as Appendix 4;
- **understanding the general public's views on batons.** For this, we commissioned a public attitude survey conducted on our behalf by NOP. In this survey we sought an understanding of the public attitude towards the expandable side-handled baton. The survey took place ten weeks after the start of the trial.

In addition, we collected information on officer perceptions of the relative merits of ESHB and SE3P. This "Crossover Trial" relied on the perceptions of some eighty officers in Devon & Cornwall and Merseyside who, having carried one of the two batons for the three months of the trial 'proper', then carried the other baton for a month. This part of our work was designed to provide information on officer preferences, and not to provide information on relative usage, injury or public attitude.

Training of police officers in the use of the ESHB began on 4 January 1994, and was largely completed by 25 February. We collected relevant information on incidents in all trial and control locations between 1 March and 30 May 1994, and on the Crossover Trials in Devon & Cornwall and Merseyside during June 1994.

2. Findings on Baton Training

1613 officers were trained in the use of the expandable side-handled baton (ESHB) in a total of 13 forces. Numbers trained ranged from 309 in Sussex to 49 in Devon & Cornwall. In addition, two forces (Devon & Cornwall and Merseyside) trained officers in the use of two alternative straight batons.

Overall, 96% of officers (excluding those in Greater Manchester Police) passed the training course, with male and female officers achieving very similar success rates. Approximately 12% of officers passing were female. Details of pass rates are given in Table 1. We have excluded Greater Manchester Police (GMP) from these training calculations, since a policy decision was taken by GMP not to examine officers in restraining techniques, thereby preventing the force from awarding unqualified passes. Thames Valley Police also diverged from the original training plans: they took a policy decision not to award a qualified pass under any circumstances. A qualified pass (“failed basic but passed prebasic”) qualifies an officer to use blocking and striking techniques whilst an unqualified pass (“passed basic”) additionally qualifies an officer to use restraining techniques.

Table 1: ESHB training pass rate

	Attended Course	Passed Basic	Failed Basic but Passed PreBasic	Failed Both	Withdrew
Total (excl GMP)	1471	96.5%	2.0%	1.2%	0.3%
Male Officers (excl GMP)	1295	96.6%	2.0%	1.2%	0.2%
Female Officers (excl GMP)	176	96.0%	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%

Training in all forces followed a structure set out during the training officers’ training course. The standard twelve hour training requirement was generally split into two six-hour training days, although two forces, Merseyside and Devon & Cornwall (both on Ottawa shift patterns) split this into three four-hour sessions. All forces used the soft rigid training baton and the rigid side handled baton (RSHB) for training sessions, although a minority additionally used the ESHB for a part of the course. Some of the ESHBs broke during training due to the intensity of their use.

The number of officers trained in each session varied considerably. The smallest ESHB training course was of 3 officers, and the largest, 27 officers. In most forces, the ratio of trainees to trainers fell well below the recommended 10:1, so that generally trainers were training fewer trainees each. Appendix 5 gives more details.

If these lower ratios were replicated nationally, it would clearly cost more to train officers than if the recommended ratio was achieved. Both trainers and trainees in classes at or near the recommended ratio were happy with the tuition received, although there was a feeling that tuition would suffer if there were any more trainees per trainer.

We held meetings with training officers both during and after the training programme. In addition, we sought trainees' views on baton training during our visits to forces, in group discussions and as a part of the questionnaire to all officers involved in the trial. The key findings are as follows:

- trainers felt that twelve hours' training was the minimum required to provide officers with the necessary skills and confidence in the use of the baton;
- trainers preferred to deliver training in pairs, rather than singly. They claimed that this allowed them greater opportunity to identify and address individual officers' difficulties with the baton;
- trainers felt that "back-to-back" training programmes would leave them mentally and physically exhausted: during the training programme for this trial they had avoided this by training only on four days out of every five;
- many trainees seemed to prefer the rigid side-handled baton (RSHB) to the ESHB. However, they felt that the RSHB would not be suitable for all: car drivers particularly, they felt, would prefer the ESHB since it allows easier entry to and exit from their cars;
- both trainers and trainees felt that it was vital to provide regular "refresher" training in baton use. Some forces have already gone some way towards this by providing training materials to Divisions, and by running a short (5 minute) drill at the start of each shift.

Pework Prior to Course

Two forces (Nottinghamshire, Sussex) circulated a pre-course briefing document. This contained basic information on the ESHB as well as pre-course learning on baton safety. One force (Merseyside) insisted that its officers successfully complete the force self defence course before attending the ESHB training course. The structure and duration of the Merseyside ESHB course remained similar to other forces' ESHB courses: however, Merseyside officers generally felt that the earlier self defence training provided a useful preparation for the ESHB course.

Course Structure

Trainers were given a standard structure to follow when they attended the Instructor Training Course. All followed this format.

All but two forces spread the twelve hours of training over two days. The exceptions were Merseyside and Devon & Cornwall. Both these forces, operating the Ottawa shift pattern, ran the training course over three days for four hours each day. Devon & Cornwall felt that the one two-day session they ran was not as effective as the three-day sessions.

A number of training officers commented on the “mental strain” of running even the training programme necessary to train officers for this trial. They felt that it was vital to have two officers running each programme, so as to reduce fatigue, and that it was better not to have “back-to-back” training courses (ie run on Monday & Tuesday, then Thursday & Friday). They preferred classes smaller than the maximum number per officer recommended - the suggestion was two trainers with twelve to fifteen officers, rather than the twenty that was recommended for two trainers. They also commented that the training courses needed a considerable amount of physical space.

Post-Course Work

Most forces provided some form of post-course work. This included copies of pages from the training manual, the trauma chart (showing where baton strikes caused most risk of serious injury), a training video, as well as recommendations that officers practice using the ESHB frequently outside work. It was commented that this would be harder for officers who did not have the ESHB on personal issue, and also harder for officers whose Division did not have training batons and/or bags.

One force (Greater Manchester) stated that they had instituted a policy of a “one minute drill” at the start of all shifts with ESHB officers.

Other Comments on Training

Trainers felt that it had been good to allow officers to take the ESHB away with them from the first day, to allow practice overnight and subsequently. Not all forces had allowed this.

There was a dislike of the American jargon in the training materials, and a feeling that the test given at the end of the course should focus on techniques, rather than on the dimensions of the baton.

Webbing holders were disliked, many of them breaking. They also restricted an officer's ability to draw the baton. Plastic holders were generally preferred: however, some of these had also broken. One officer mentioned a leather holder recently introduced: this was felt to be a likely success.

Trainers commented that many trainees at the end of the course appeared to prefer the rigid side handled baton (a solid version of the baton used in training) to the ESHB itself. Some of those leaving the course had expressed an intention to wear the ESHB expanded, so it would look like a rigid side-handled baton. However, it was recognised that the effect of extending the ESHB might in itself be a deterrent to potential assailants.

Some less fit officers were seen to find the training course fairly arduous - it requires a reasonable level of personal fitness. Some officers commented on the incompatibility of uniform and the ESHB - either the belt being unable to carry the weight of equipment, or the jacket making access to the ESHB difficult.

Some officers expressed an interest in further training, to improve their ability with the baton. Many officers felt that there should anyway be refresher training, as well as a retest of all officers every twelve months.

3. Relevant Incidents during the Trial

Officers in trial and control locations in each of the twelve participating forces were asked to complete an “Incident Report Form” each time they:

- *either* drew their baton or truncheon (whether or not they used it);
- *or* were assaulted (whether or not they drew their baton or truncheon).

The two sets of data together provide information on troublesome incidents, and enable comparisons to be made on the frequency of use of batons and truncheons. They also allow a review of the extent to which officers found themselves in situations in which they were unable, for one reason or another, to use their baton or truncheon to defend themselves from assault.

In all but two forces, the control locations (where truncheons were in use) were selected by forces as comparable in size and type of policing with the trial locations (where batons were in use). The two exceptions, Strathclyde and Nottinghamshire, did not have control locations separate from trial locations. Instead, they selected locations where some officers were issued with the ESHB whilst others continued to carry the truncheon. In total, the trial monitored 1474 ESHB carrying officers, 90 SE3P carrying officers, 68 SE2P carrying officers and 1750 truncheon carrying officers.

We received 601 completed incident report forms, and the key results are given in the remainder of this Section. Our analysis in this Section relies on the integrity of officers in faithfully reporting incidents. We present other data compiled by forces in the next Section, and further details on reported incidents in Appendix 6.

Not all officers were rigorous in completing the forms as requested. Some of those we have received are incomplete, or have not been completed entirely according to the instructions. We have processed these forms as best we are able. We also suspect that the forms we have received do not cover every relevant incident: it is likely that officers carrying one of the trial batons felt more involved in the trial, and thus would be more likely to return an Incident Report Form than a colleague who has carried the truncheon for many years.

Frequency and Types of Incidents

The majority of forms returned to us were from ESHB carriers, who were most likely to have occasion to report an incident. Given the small base of truncheon respondents, subsequent data on truncheon use should be treated with some caution. In the remainder of this Section, we have omitted data on the SE3P and SE2P where the base sizes are too small to allow useful analysis.

Table 2. Type of baton or truncheon carried at incidents

	Number of forms	Forms per 100 officer
Truncheon	55	3.1
ESHB	496	33.7
SE3P	29	32.2
SE2P	15	22.1
DKNS	6	n/a

DKNS = Don't Know or Not Stated

We received a smaller proportion of ESHB incident forms from female officers than the proportion of female officers passing the baton course (12%) would have led us to expect. This might indicate either that female officers are less inclined to use the ESHB, or that they are less likely to find themselves in situations where its use is appropriate, or that they were simply less likely to report an incident. The proportion of female officers reporting truncheon incidents was higher.

Table 3. Gender of officers reporting incidents

	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
Male	80%	93%	93%
Female	20%	7%	7%

Officers carrying the ESHB mostly reported incidents of public disorder, as did those carrying the truncheon. However, ESHB carriers regularly reported incidents during organised operations such as searching premises and in interrupting crimes such as burglary. Truncheon carriers were more likely to report incidents on traffic stops and at public premises.

RELEVANT INCIDENTS DURING THE TRIAL

Table 4. Type of incident			
	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
Public Disorder	53%	49%	52%
<i>Fight or Disturbance</i>	35%	32%	34%
<i>Other Disorder</i>	18%	18%	17%
Organised Operations	5%	16%	3%
<i>Searching Premises</i>	0%	11%	0%
<i>Arresting Suspects</i>	5%	6%	3%
Interrupting Crimes	9%	14%	3%
<i>Attending Theft/Shoplift</i>	4%	2%	0%
<i>Burglary</i>	0%	7%	3%
<i>Other</i>	5%	5%	0%
Disputes	11%	11%	28%
<i>Domestic</i>	11%	10%	24%
<i>Other</i>	0%	2%	3%
Traffic Stop	9%	3%	0%
Foot Stop	4%	2%	7%
Incident on Public Premises	11%	3%	0%
Others	11%	13%	10%
Not Stated	2%	1%	3%

Italicised figures represent a breakdown of the respective bold figures. Note that some officers highlighted more than one type for a single incident: hence the sum of bold figures for each column may be greater than 100%.

The other party was more often carrying a weapon in incidents reported by truncheon carrying officers. Weapons were carried by the other party in 16% of reported incidents involving ESHB carrying officers, with some other parties carrying more than one weapon. For truncheon carrying officers, this percentage rose to 29%. This difference may reflect ESHB officers' greater preparedness to draw their batons at the first sign of trouble.

Table 5. Carriage of weapons by other parties

Weapon Carried by Other Party	Truncheon	ESHB
Weapon Carried	29%	16%
<i>Knife</i>	20%	8%
<i>Stick</i>	5%	2%
<i>Firearm</i>	4%	*
<i>Other Weapon</i>	4%	7%
No Weapon	62%	64%
Don't Know or Not Stated	9%	20%

Note that some officers highlighted more than one weapon for a single incident.

Table 6 shows how the batons or truncheons are used in incidents. The data indicates that the ESHB is drawn much more readily than the truncheon, reflecting the encouragement officers receive during training to draw their baton early as a precaution. In most cases where the baton is drawn, officers simply hold it ready rather than using it to strike, block or restrain. When used, it is most commonly used to jab or to restrain (“Arm Lock”).

Those reporting truncheon related incidents did not draw the truncheon in over one half of these incidents. They reported these incidents because they were assaulted, and were unable (or chose not) to draw their truncheon in self-defence. We know from our discussions with officers that they consider the truncheon a poor means of self-defence.

Table 6. Type of use of baton or truncheon

	ESHB Use		Truncheon Use
Not Drawn	2%	Not Drawn	55%
Drawn	97%	Drawn	35%
<i>Jab</i>	12%	<i>Strike</i>	42%
<i>Arm Lock</i>	9%	<i>No Strike</i>	58%
<i>Spin</i>	5%	Don't Know or Not Stated	10%
<i>Chop</i>	4%		
<i>Block</i>	3%		
<i>Drawn Alone</i>	67%		
Don't Know or Not Stated	1%		

Figures in italics use as their base those DRAWING the baton or truncheon

The ESHB was damaged in approximately two per cent of reported incidents, the same proportion as for the truncheon.

Effectiveness and Relative Merits

Officers were asked to rate their views on the effectiveness of the baton or truncheon in dealing with incidents on a four point scale, from “very effective” (4) to “not at all effective” (1).

Baton users were far happier with the effectiveness of the baton than truncheon users were with the truncheon. Users of the ESHB consistently felt that their baton was better than the truncheon would have been.

Table 7. Officer views of baton or truncheon effectiveness

	Truncheon	ESHB
Very Effective (4)	19%	78%
Quite Effective (3)	29%	19%
Not Very Effective (2)	24%	2%
Not At All Effective (1)	28%	1%
Mean Score	2.4	3.7

Truncheon officers stated that they had been unable to draw the truncheon in 25% of reported incidents, and chosen not to draw the truncheon in 27% of reported incidents. In contrast, ESHB officers stated that they had been unable to draw the ESHB in only 1% of reported incidents, and had chosen not to draw the ESHB in a further 1% of reported incidents.

Injuries

ESHB carrying officers were no more likely to sustain minor or serious injury than truncheon carriers (i.e. the number of injuries per 1000 officers is broadly the same). ESHB carrying officers who were involved in reported incidents were much less likely to sustain injury than truncheon carrying officers (i.e. the number of injuries per 100 reported incidents was much lower for officers carrying the ESHB than for those carrying truncheons).

Table 8. Occurrence of injuries to officers

	Truncheon			ESHB		
	Number	<i>Per 100 Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Per 1000 Officers</i>	Number	<i>Per 100 Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Per 1000 Officers</i>
Minor	35	63.6	20.0	30	6.0	20.4
Serious	1	1.8	0.6	1	0.2	0.6

The most common injuries sustained by officers were minor cuts, bruises or sprains.

Table 9. Types of injuries sustained by officers

Types of Injury <i>Base: Injured Officers</i>	Truncheon	ESHB
Minor cuts, sprains, bruises	89%	77%
Serious bruising, laceration	6%	0%
Concussion	0%	6%
Fracture	3%	0%
Other	6%	13%
DKNS	3%	10%

Officers may have sustained more than one type of injury from the same incident, hence columns may add to over 100%.

RELEVANT INCIDENTS DURING THE TRIAL

The site of injury was similar for both truncheon and ESHB carriers.

Table 10. Site of injuries sustained by officers

<i>Base: Injured Officers</i>	Truncheon	ESHB
Head or Neck	53%	45%
Hand	25%	29%
Lower leg or shin	17%	16%
Elbow	14%	6%
Knee	8%	13%
Shoulders/Collarbone	14%	6%
Upper Arm	11%	3%
Buttocks/Thighs	6%	6%
Upper Abdomen	8%	0%
Lower Arm	3%	3%
Groin	0%	6%
Small of Back	1%	0%
Don't Know or Not Stated	0%	3%

Columns add to over 100% because some officers reported more than one site of injury.

Most injuries to members of the public were minor cuts, bruises or sprains.

Table 11. Types of injury sustained by public

	Truncheon	ESHB
Minor cuts, bruises, sprains	83%	70%
Serious bruising or laceration	8%	9%
Fracture	8%	3%
Not known	8%	8%
Other	0%	12%
Don't Know or Not Stated	0%	3%

Members of the public may have sustained more than one type of injury from the same incident, hence columns may sum to over 100%. The "Other" category has been used by officers to give more detail to mostly minor injuries - for example "slight bruises", "old cuts reopened" or "cuts from self mutilation".

There were no serious injuries to members of the public caused by either ESHB or truncheon. We know from our group discussions with officers that carrying the ESHB gave them more confidence in interrupting violent incidents: it is reassuring that this greater involvement in violent incidents did not lead to any serious injuries to the public.

The ESHB, however, caused more minor injuries to those members of the public involved in reported disturbances than did the truncheon. There was no significant difference in the minor injury rate (i.e. the number of injuries per 1000 incidents) once the baton or truncheon was drawn: the greater absolute number of minor injuries was instead a reflection of the greater preparedness of officers to draw and use the ESHB in situations they judged merited police officer intervention, and a greater willingness to intervene in more violent incidents.

Table 12. Analysis of injuries caused by baton or truncheon to members of the public involved in the disturbance

	Serious		Minor	
	Number	Number	<i>Number per 100 Incidents Where Baton or Truncheon Drawn</i>	<i>Number per 1000 officers</i>
Truncheon	0	1	5.2	0.6
ESHB	0	21	4.4	14.2

Of the 79 reported injuries to members of the public, 57 were not caused by the baton or truncheon. 46 of these were reported by ESHB carrying officers, and 11 by truncheon carrying officers. This larger number reported at ESHB incidents is, again, a reflection of our receiving many more reports from ESHB carrying officers than from truncheon carriers. ESHB officers reported nine times more incidents, largely because they were more prepared to draw the baton either at the first sign of trouble or as a precautionary measure.

Since these injuries are not themselves caused by the baton or truncheon - indeed, in many cases they were incurred even before the officer reached the scene of the disturbance - we have not presented any further analysis of this data in this report.

Table 13. Analysis of injuries NOT caused by baton or truncheon to members of the public involved in the disturbance

Injuries to Public NOT Caused by....	Serious	Minor	Total
Truncheon	1	10	11
ESHB	10	36	46

In summary, the ESHB caused no serious injuries to the public. The ESHB was no more likely to cause minor injury to the public than was the truncheon, once drawn. The ESHB was, however, drawn much more frequently than the truncheon, reflecting officers' greater confidence in the ESHB than in the truncheon. This greater preparedness to draw the ESHB, together with a greater readiness to intervene in more violent incidents, meant that more minor injuries to those members of the public involved in reported disturbances were caused by the ESHB than by the truncheon.

4. Force Data

Eleven forces returned our data collection forms, providing data for the months of March, April and May 1994 and for the same periods in 1993. We have excluded data from two forces (Nottinghamshire and Strathclyde), since neither used a control area against which to compare results in trial areas.

Public Comment

No force received any letters commenting either favourably or unfavourably on the introduction or use of batons or truncheons, in either period.

Ten forces provided information on complaints against police use of batons or truncheons. This identified six complaints regarding police officer use of batons. There were no identified complaints regarding officer use of truncheons during the trial period, and a single identified complaint regarding use of truncheons in the equivalent period in 1993.

Incidence of Disorder

Five forces provided full information on public disorder. A further six provided incomplete information, omitting data either on their control area or on the equivalent period in 1993.

In those forces providing full information, disorder in trial locations grew by 19.7% compared with the previous year; in control locations disorder grew by 11.0%.

Table 14: Instances of disorder

	March-May 1993	March-May 1994
Trial Locations	4336	4812 (+11.0%)
Control Locations	3925	4699 (+19.7%)

Assaults on Police Officers

Six forces provided full information on assaults on police officers. A further five provided incomplete information, omitting data either on their control area or on the equivalent period in 1993.

FORCE DATA

In those forces providing full information, assaults fell in trial locations by 29.8% compared with the previous year; in control locations assaults fell by 2.4%.

Table 15: Number of assaults on police officers		
	March-May 1993	March-May 1994
Trial Locations	94	66 (-29.8%)
Control Locations	42	41 (-2.4%)

In those forces providing full information, time lost through assaults fell in trial locations by 90.2% compared with the previous year; in control locations time lost fell by 89.8%.

Table 16: Time lost through assaults		
Hours Lost Through Assaults	March-May 1993	March-May 1994
Trial Locations	1936	190 (-90.2%)
Control Locations	2777	282 (-89.8%)

We have discussed this dramatic fall in hours lost for both trial and control locations with a number of forces, who confirm the accuracy of the data. We understand that the dramatic improvement is caused by a substantial fall in the number of officers on long term sick leave, and is not in itself believed attributable to the ESHB or to this baton trial.

5. Officers' Views

Group Discussions

We carried out group discussions with a representative cross-section of officers carrying the ESHB during the trial period.

Officers spoke very highly of the ESHB. Some officers stated that they had been sceptical about all that was claimed for the ESHB before the trial, but that their experience had persuaded them of its merits. Without exception, officers stated that they felt more confident in their work with the ESHB than they had with the truncheon. They felt that the ESHB was a psychological boost to the officer, with good defensive capabilities and providing an effective visible deterrent where required. They stated that they would be extremely reluctant to have to surrender the ESHB should any decision be taken not to proceed with its introduction. A number of officers reported that their spouses were far happier now that the officers were equipped with the ESHB - they felt that officers were now safer at work.

No officer in our group discussions reported any injury to members of the public in their use of the ESHB. One officer reported minor injury to himself in using the ESHB to restrain a violent suspect.

Officers who had drawn the baton reported that they had drawn it:

- as a precaution or for reassurance when going into a situation where they felt in some danger (for example, whilst searching premises where a violent offender was believed to be);
- as a defensive measure, when faced by one or more violent individuals;
- as a deterrent, for example when faced by a disorderly group late at night or at a football match;
- to gain access to premises, for example by breaking a window;
- as an aid in apprehending a suspect on the run, either in cornering or restraining. It was pointed out that when using the ESHB, an officer could restrain a suspect much stronger than him or herself simply by using the techniques taught during their initial training. We were given examples of female officers overpowering larger male suspects when using the ESHB.

Officers reported that the visible display of the baton (and sometimes the act of extending the baton) often had a calming effect on rowdy or disorderly individuals,

and that even known violent individuals had “come quietly” once the baton was produced, without the need to use the baton to strike the individual.

Some officers commented that they had carried the ESHB fully extended, rather than in its retracted state. They found this more convenient, and had received no adverse comments from members of the public on this form of carriage.

A small number of batons were reported to have been damaged or to have broken. Officers who had batons on personal issue were themselves responsible for checking that their baton was in working order; forces where batons were not personal issue did not always appear to have satisfactory systems of checking the batons’ “fitness for purpose”.

Officers commented on the suitability of certain items of associated equipment as follows:

- *baton holders*. Both webbing and plastic holders were criticised, with webbing holders being least liked; the webbing holders were found to make it difficult to draw the baton. Neither holder could be guaranteed to hold the baton whilst an officer was running. Officers understood that a leather holder was on trial, and understood it to work well, although no officer we spoke to had personal experience of it;
- *belts*. Officers stated that they needed a wide belt to carry all of their equipment. The belts often issued were too narrow to support the weight of all their equipment;
- *bracket to carry baton in car*. Some officers stated that they took off their batons whilst in the car and suggested that there should be a bracket in the car to carry the baton. However, other officers stated that they were concerned about taking the baton off in the car, for fear that they would leave it behind if they had to leave the car quickly. They were also concerned that visibly picking up and attaching the baton on leaving the car could, in some cases, give the wrong impression to those at the scene;
- *uniform*. Some officers commented that it was difficult to draw the baton when it was worn under a jacket. They felt that the baton should be worn over the uniform, or that an alternative, more suitable, uniform should be provided.

Officers commented favourably on the training they had received. They stated that they would like (or, some felt, need) regular refresher training in order to ensure they

maintained or developed their skill level. Several stated that they would prefer to be issued with the rigid (“RSHB”) version rather than the expandable (“ESHB”) version. However, others, particularly car drivers, felt that the expandable version was more suited to their individual role.

In some cases supervisors had not been fully briefed on the different approach encouraged in those carrying the ESHB (i.e. that its range of use is more extensive than the traditional truncheon, and that it should, therefore, be drawn more readily). It was felt that this should be addressed if the ESHB were to be authorised for continued use.

We asked officers about their earlier experience of using the truncheon. Few had ever drawn their truncheon, and several considered it sufficiently ineffective not to carry it. Those that had drawn their truncheon reported that they had done so only when they had felt under considerable threat of personal injury, and that it offered them little defence against a determined assailant.

Response to Officer Questionnaire

We circulated a questionnaire at the end of the three month trial to a total of 2100 officers in test and control locations. 797 questionnaires were returned in time to be included in this analysis, a response rate of 38.0%. A Home Office request to bring forward the date of our final report meant that officers had at most five days in which to complete and return the questionnaire: this may have adversely affected the response rate. The sections below analyse the response to the questionnaire.

Demographics

422 of those responding to the questionnaire carried the ESHB during the trial period. 300 truncheon carriers responded, along with 30 officers carrying the Straight Expandable Three Piece (“SE3P”). These levels of response are suitable for further analysis.

30 officers claimed to be carrying the Straight Expandable Two Piece (“SE2P”). However, these officers came from a variety of forces known not to be trialling the SE2P. For this reason, we have not presented any analysis of this group’s response.

Four officers indicated that they carried the 21" Rigid Baton during the trial. This level of response is too small for further analysis. A further 11 officers did not state which baton they carried during the trial.

Those ESHB officers responding were more likely to be mobile than the truncheon officers who responded. One half of the SE3P officers specified “Other” as their role. We understand this primarily to be officers in their force tactical support group.

Table 17. Role of officers responding to questionnaire

	Uniform: On Foot	Uniform: Mobile	Traffic	CID	Other	DKNS
Truncheon	27%	42%	7%	*	14%	10%
ESHB	14%	61%	5%	*	16%	4%
SE3P	7%	43%	0%	0%	50%	0%

* = less than 0.5%. DKNS = Don't Know or Not Stated

Fourteen per cent of officers responding were female. Only the group carrying the SE3P differed markedly from this proportion, with twenty three per cent female. The responses from male and female officers were very similar: the only exception is highlighted under the Section on Practical Considerations below.

Views on Baton and Truncheon Performance

Truncheon carrying officers were much less satisfied with its effectiveness than baton users were with the effectiveness of their respective baton. Baton carrying officers felt more confident in performing their duties than truncheon carrying officers. Baton carriers were also more confident in these batons' defensive capabilities than truncheon carrying officers were with their equipment. There was no significant difference in effectiveness *between* either ESHB or SE3P on any of these criteria.

Table 18. Officers' views on baton performance

Views on...	Effectiveness	Confidence Performing Duties	Defensive Capabilities
Truncheon	2.0	2.3	1.8
ESHB	3.7	3.6	3.7
SE3P	3.8	3.8	3.7

Ratings scored as follows: 4 = Very Satisfied/Confident, 3 = Quite Satisfied/Confident, 2 = Quite Dissatisfied/Not Very Confident, 1 = Very Dissatisfied/ Not At All Confident

Practical Considerations

The SE3P was judged easiest to draw whatever uniform the officer was wearing. ESHB carrying officers found drawing their baton easier in shirtsleeve order or when wearing the NATO pullover, but had difficulty when wearing a tunic, Goretex jacket or raincoat. Shaded areas in the table below indicate where officers experienced greater difficulty.

Table 19. Ease of drawing batons with different clothing

	Tunic	NATO Pullover	Goretex Jacket	High Visibility Jacket	Raincoat	Shirt-sleeve Order
Truncheon	2.5	3.2	1.9	2.0	1.6	3.3
ESHB	1.8	3.6	1.7	2.0	1.4	3.9
SE3P	2.5	3.5	2.2	2.6	2.2	3.9

Ratings scored as follows: 4 = Very Easy, 3 = Quite Easy, 2 = Quite Difficult, 1 = Very Difficult.

SE3P carriers found all movements relatively easy. ESHB carriers found some difficulty when sitting or in a vehicle, particularly female officers who commented that the ESHB could deliver a painful jab to the breast when sitting unless great care were taken. Shaded areas in the table below indicate where officers experienced greater difficulty.

Table 20. Ease of truncheon or baton carriage

	Walking	Running	Sitting	In Vehicle
Truncheon	3.7	2.8	3.0	2.9
ESHB	4.0	3.4	2.8	2.2
SE3P	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.5

Ratings scored as follows: 4 = No Difficulty, 3 = Slight Difficulty, 2 = Fair Difficulty, 1 = Extreme Difficulty.

Most officers carrying a truncheon or SE3P wore it whilst in a vehicle. However, one third of ESHB carriers removed the baton whilst in a vehicle.

Table 21. Wearing of batons or truncheons in vehicle

	Wore Baton or Truncheon	Removed Baton or Truncheon
Truncheon	91%	9%
ESHB	66%	34%
SE3P	93%	7%

Base: those who travelled in vehicle.

Officers were asked to rate the suitability of a range of batons for their own use. Their responses are summarised in Table 22. Note that officers were asked to express a view not only of the baton they carried but also of other batons of which they may not have had personal experience.

There was general agreement that the traditional truncheon was not suitable for officers' use. Those using baton alternatives to the truncheon generally felt that the baton they were trialling was the most suitable for their use.

The Rigid Side Handled Baton (RSHB) scored relatively highly (but not as highly as the ESHB). Many of the officers carrying ESHBs will have held a version of this baton during their baton training.

Table 22. Overall view of baton suitability

	Truncheon	RSHB	ESHB	SE3P	SE2P	21" Rigid
Baton being carried:						
Truncheon	1.8	3.1	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.4
ESHB	1.5	3.4	3.7	2.5	2.7	2.5
SE3P	1.6	2.4	2.3	3.9	1.8	2.6

Ratings scored as follows: 4 = Very Suitable, 3 = Quite Suitable, 2 = Quite Unsuitable, 1 = Very Unsuitable.

Shaded areas highlight where officers rated the baton or truncheon less highly than "Quite Suitable".

6. Public Attitude Research on the ESHB

Public attitude research on the ESHB alone was conducted in three areas chosen as broadly representative in policing and demographic terms of the full range of policing circumstances. The three areas were:

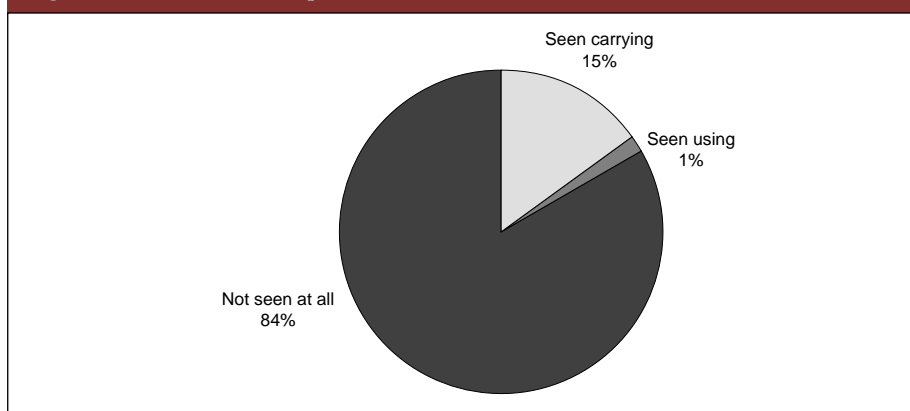
- the Johnstone area of Glasgow (Strathclyde);
- Reading (Thames Valley);
- Gainsborough (Lincolnshire).

In Reading and Gainsborough, all uniformed officers had been issued with the ESHB, whilst in Johnstone some officers carried the ESHB whilst others carried the truncheon. At the time of fieldwork the ESHB had been in use for approximately 2 months. In all areas there had been noticeable press coverage of the baton trial during the first week of the trial period.

The survey was carried out on our behalf by NOP on 6th and 7th May 1994 among 327 members of the public. In each of the three areas, NOP interviewed a representative sample of the general public, judged on the basis of gender, age, working status, family and marital status, ethnic origin and social classification. A list of the questions put to interviewees is given in Appendix 8.

Only 15% of the public volunteered that police officers in their area were carrying new batons/truncheons, with very little difference between areas. When prompted with a photograph, only 16% recalled seeing the baton, either worn or in use.

Figure 2. Observation/experience of batons

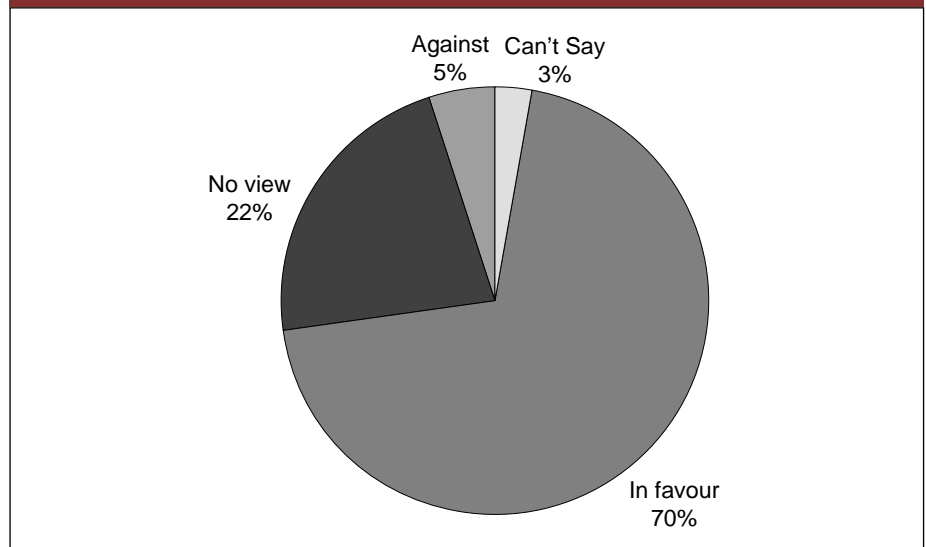


Source: Q1

Most people (53%) thought that the reason for the new batons was for the self-defence of police officers (possibly reflecting local publicity to this effect). One third (34%) did not know of any reason.

The substantial majority of those surveyed (70%) were in favour of the change from old style truncheons to batons. Nearly a quarter (22%) expressed no view either way and only 5% were against.

Figure 3. For or against change from truncheon to the ESHB



Source: Q4

Reasons put forward in favour of change include the suggestion that the new batons will eliminate the need for the police to carry firearms, that they are “more effective”, that the police “were too vulnerable”, “we need more security”, and “so many people carry knives in this area”.

Reasons against the change included increased danger to the public, “might cause violence when previously there may not have been” and “too handy for them to use”.

A substantial majority of people (72%) felt that the introduction of batons had made no difference to their attitudes to the police. Only 2% felt more negative, while one in five (20%) felt more positive about the police carrying the new batons.

The vast majority of people (76%) felt that the introduction of batons had made no difference to the approachability of police officers. 6% felt it had made them less approachable, and 10% more approachable.

Most people (65%) felt that the batons had helped police officers to do their jobs better. 24% of people didn't know if they had had any effect, and 11% thought they had not helped.

7. Crossover Trials

In early June 1994, seventy nine officers in Devon & Cornwall and Merseyside swapped from the ESHB to the SE3P (or vice versa). Four weeks later, we held group discussions with thirty one of these officers, and circulated questionnaires to all seventy nine. The questionnaires and group discussions sought to establish officer views on the relative merits of the batons. Our findings from discussions and questionnaires are given below.

This part of our work was designed to provide information on officer preferences, and not to provide information on relative usage, injury or public attitude.

Sixty five officers responded to our questionnaire, a response rate of 81.0%.

Table 23. Response rate for crossover trial questionnaire

	Response	Base	Response Rate %
Devon & Cornwall	37	44	84.1
Merseyside	27	35	77.1
Total	64	79	81.0

Training

All officers received training in the use of both ESHB and SE3P. Generally, ESHB training lasted 12 hours, whilst SE3P training lasted 6 hours or less.

Officers commented favourably on the training they received in the use of both batons. They felt that it would not be possible to train officers in the use of the ESHB in less than 12 hours, given the wide range of holding, blocking and striking techniques possible with this baton. They also felt that officers carrying this baton would need regular refresher training to maintain their skill level. Conversely, officers generally felt that they would need little, if any, refresher training in the use of the SE3P. Officers stated that there are only three techniques to master, all strikes and all judged easy to grasp. These SE3P techniques, officers felt, were very similar to some of the techniques taught in the ESHB training programme. For this reason, officers felt that those trained in the ESHB needed only two additional hours (rather than the usual six hours) of training to qualify them to carry the SE3P.

Use of Batons

Very few officers had drawn their baton during June, the second trial period. None of

those who had drawn the second baton had used it. Conversely, the majority of officers had drawn their first trial baton, with several using the baton. This difference of scale and type of use reflects:

- the shorter trial period for the second baton (one month as opposed to the three month trial for the first baton);
- the different nature of policing in June compared to March, April and May. For example, officers in the Tactical Aid Group in Devon & Cornwall Constabulary used their first issue baton on several occasions for football crowd control, but had no occasion to use the second baton at football matches.

Views on Batons' Defensive Capabilities

Most officers agreed that the ESHB offered more defensive techniques than did the SE3P. However, some officers (all from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) were concerned that they might not be sufficiently familiar with the appropriate defensive technique when the occasion merited. These officers preferred the SE3P for self-defence, since there were few techniques to master.

Other officers were concerned that the SE3P offered no blocking or restraining techniques: they felt that this made the SE3P a more offensive baton than the ESHB. They further stated that the basic stance adopted with SE3P drawn was more visually aggressive than the basic stance when the ESHB was drawn. Several commented that, should they have to justify their actions in court, they would feel more confident justifying use of the ESHB for self-defence than they would justifying similar use of the SE3P. For these reasons, these officers preferred the ESHB for self-defence.

Officers in Merseyside scored the ESHB more highly than the SE3P for self-defence, whilst officers in Devon & Cornwall scored the SE3P marginally more highly than the ESHB.

Views on Batons' Other Attributes

All officers agreed that the ESHB was not suited to covert operations, whilst the SE3P was well suited for this role. This reflects the compact nature of the SE3P when retracted.

Officers generally felt that both batons were able to deter further aggression when

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drawn. Given its greater size and hence visibility, the ESHB was generally felt more able to deter aggression before being drawn.

All officers agreed that the SE3P was more comfortable to wear than the ESHB, particularly when seated (for example, in a car). A number of female officers had found that the retracted ESHB was long enough to cause painful jabs to the breast if not removed before sitting.

Both questionnaires and group discussions revealed a clear difference in attitude between forces. Devon & Cornwall officers rated the SE3P more highly for effectiveness and for the confidence it gave them, whilst Merseyside officers rated the ESHB more highly on the same criteria.

Table 24. Crossover trial: relative merits of batons

	Effectiveness		Confidence in Duties	
	SE3P	ESHB	SE3P	ESHB
Devon & Cornwall	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.2
Merseyside	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.6

Ratings scored as follows: 4 = Very Good, 3 = Quite Good, 2 = Quite Poor, 1 = Very Poor.

Overall Preference

When asked to select a single baton, most officers in Merseyside selected the ESHB whilst most Devon & Cornwall officers chose the SE3P. Of those officers choosing the SE3P, most preferred the 26" model, the longest available. There was no significant link between order of baton use and officer preference.

Table 25. Crossover trials: overall baton preference

	Devon & Cornwall	Merseyside
ESHB	22%	67%
SE3P Total	75%	18%
16"	3%	0%
21"	30%	7%
26"	42%	11%
Don't Know or Not Stated	3%	15%
TOTAL	100%	100%

8. Metropolitan Police Baton Trials

The Metropolitan Police themselves ran trials of baton alternatives to the traditional truncheon. They provided us with copies of relevant reports. More details are available upon request to the Metropolitan Police.

The Metropolitan Police baton trials had two distinct elements:

- first, a trial of straight baton alternatives to the traditional truncheon. Batons trialled were the Celayaton 26", the Arnold 20.5", the Monadnock 24" and a heavy hardwood 15" truncheon. Two hundred officers were selected for the trial and divided into four groups of fifty. Each group used one of the four batons from July to October 1993, then another baton from November 1993 to February 1994. We give the recommendations associated with this element below;
- second, a comparison of extendable side-handled and straight batons. Fifty officers from the first study described above exchanged their straight batons for the ESHB. The study identified, amongst other matters, which type of baton is preferred by police officers. This study was completed at the end of June 1994.

The Metropolitan Police Report on the first element made the following recommendations:

- the present issue standard truncheon be withdrawn from service;
- "Arnold type" (Acrylic Patrol Batons, or APBs) batons [with a range of alternative lengths and weights] be adopted as the primary defensive equipment for officers in the Metropolitan Police Service;
- overt carriage be authorised for ordinary Divisional patrolling at the discretion of individual officers;
- where possible, refresher training be given to officers at six month intervals;
- on an annual basis, during refresher training, the performance of officers be monitored to ensure that the requisite standards are maintained, with remedial training being given where necessary;
- the required modifications to outer clothing be progressed. In summary, the NATO pullover caused least obstruction to drawing the baton, and the raincoat most. Recommendations focused on the modification of the Goretex jacket to improve accessibility;

- clips for the carriage of batons in vehicles be progressed as soon as possible;
- an adjustable baton holder [described in detail in the report] be produced and issued on an individual basis to all officers equipped with batons.

The Home Secretary gave approval for the general issue of the 22" Acrylic Patrol Baton (APB) in mid May 1994. He also authorised further trials and scientific testing of 24" and 26" versions of the APB.

The comparison of extendable side-handled and straight batons was completed in late July 1994. This study compared the ESHB with the Monadnock 24", the Arnold 20.5" and the traditional truncheon. The SE3P was not included in this trial.

The Metropolitan Police report on these baton trials concluded that officers in the trial showed a clear confidence in the ESHB and the training programme that goes with it. However, the sample size was judged too small to allow meaningful comparisons between batons.

9. Conclusions

Our conclusions focus on the key element of our research, namely the assessment of the ESHB as an alternative to the traditional truncheon. Where possible, we have also drawn conclusions on other baton types: however, such conclusions are limited by the much smaller scale and scope of this element of our research.

Almost without exception, police officers strongly prefer the ESHB to the truncheon. They judge it more effective in preventing incidents, in resolving incidents to their satisfaction, and feel considerably more confident when carrying it than when carrying the truncheon. They find the ESHB useful in a wider range of activities than the truncheon. However, officers report some difficulties drawing the ESHB when wearing some items of uniform, and some discomfort (particularly for female officers) if wearing the ESHB whilst sitting.

The ESHB helps officers to defend themselves far more effectively than they were able with the truncheon. Many officers report that would-be assailants are much more likely to surrender or desist from causing trouble once the ESHB is drawn. This effect may decline as the ESHB becomes less of a novelty to potential troublemakers. Data from forces appears to confirm that ESHB carrying officers are less likely to be assaulted than those with truncheons. However, the incident data we have gathered suggests that there is no overall change to officer injury levels through the carriage of the ESHB. It may be that the confidence the ESHB gives officers makes them more prepared to put themselves in potentially more troublesome situations than those carrying the truncheon. Although ESHB officers may enter such situations more frequently, once in such situations they appear less likely to incur injury than truncheon carrying officers.

The ESHB, as used and reported by police officers, appears no more likely to cause serious injury to members of the public than the truncheon. We have relied on officers' correctly judging whether injuries to the public have been caused by the baton or truncheon, or sustained in some other way. The number of *minor* injuries to the public has, however, increased. This reflects the greater willingness of officers to draw and use the ESHB in situations they judge merit police officer intervention. The rate of injury to the public in incidents where the ESHB is drawn is slightly lower than the rate of injury in incidents where the truncheon is drawn.

The public accept the introduction of the ESHB. Our research showed that the substantial majority of those surveyed were in favour of the change from truncheons to the ESHB.

Although officers are generally very positive about the ESHB training they received, all forces could further improve the quality of their ESHB training by

CONCLUSIONS

studying good practice elsewhere. For example, two forces provided pre-course study materials for their officers, and one force has instituted a brief refresher training session at the start of each shift. Other forces may wish to follow suit. Forces will also need to ensure that the number of trainees per trainer is closer to the ideal “ten” than that achieved during these trials.

Our limited review of other batons indicates that alternatives such as the SE3P may be more appropriate than the ESHB in certain circumstances. On the crossover trials, approximately one half the officers preferred the SE3P to the ESHB, primarily on account of its comfort and ease of use. This baton, unlike the ESHB, is very small when retracted, and therefore could also be suitable for covert carriage. However, our research on the SE3P was very much smaller in scale than that for the ESHB, and focused on police officer attitude. Our SE3P research did not include a detailed examination of its usage and safety, unlike our review of the ESHB.

10. Recommendations

The Expandable Side-Handled Baton (ESHB) should be allowed as an alternative to the traditional truncheon. This trial has indicated that the ESHB, as used in this study, is no more likely to lead to serious injury to the public or to police officers than the traditional truncheon. Data from forces suggests that the ESHB reduces the number of assaults on police officers. Our research into public attitudes shows that the clear majority of the public are happy for the ESHB to be issued to the police. Officers themselves feel more confident with the ESHB than the truncheon, and report that many incidents can be resolved without further difficulty by drawing the baton.

ESHB training should follow the approach used for this trial. This will help to ensure that officers use the ESHB in a way we have found to be effective and relatively safe. There should be refresher training and retesting of officers at regular intervals. This will help to ensure that they use the baton correctly.

All baton types are not the same: forces should consider the relative merits of different baton types in assigning batons to officers. The choice of baton should reflect officer role, policing circumstances and officer preference as well as relative safety of officers and the public. For example, the Straight Expandable Three Piece Baton (SE3P) is well liked by many officers, and well suited because of its size to carriage in covert operations. Subject to confirmation of satisfactory usage and safety data, the SE3P is likely to be the baton of choice in such covert operations.

We recognise that there will be cost and organisational implications should a force train its officers in the use of more than one type of baton. Indeed, there are issues even if forces within the same region choose different batons, since the Police Training Centres might come under pressure to provide training in more than one type of baton. These considerations were strictly outside our terms of reference. However, several of the trainers stated during the trial that a training course covering use of both ESHB and SE3P would take little longer than a course covering the use of the ESHB alone. Training officers in the use of two batons may therefore not be as costly as might first be imagined.

11. Subsequent Events

Following the submission of our findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Home Office and the ACPO Sub-Committee on Self-Defence and Restraint, the Home Secretary announced that he would back any Chief Officer in England and Wales who decided to introduce the Expandable Side-Handled Baton.

The Secretary of State for Scotland announced a similar decision in relation to Scotland.

Appendix 1. Training Officer Report Form

EXPANDABLE SIDE-HANDLED BATON TRIALS

Training Report

PLEASE COMPLETE A TRAINING REPORT AT THE END OF EACH EXPANDABLE SIDE-HANDLED BATON TRAINING PROGRAMME.

1. **Training Officer Name**.....

2. **Force** (tick as appropriate)

Cambridgeshire	
Cleveland	
Devon & Cornwall	
Greater Manchester	
Lincolnshire	
Merseyside	
Metropolitan	

Nottinghamshire	
South Wales	
Strathclyde	
Sussex	
Thames Valley	
West Mercia	

3. **Course Date**.....

4. **Number of Training Officers Running Course** (please tick one)

One	
Two	
Three or more	

5. **Number, Rank and Gender of Officers Trained**

Please complete each box with the appropriate number. If none for that category, place a line through the appropriate box..

				Inspectors				
		Constables		Sergeants		& Above		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	TOTAL

Attended Training								
Passed Basic								
Failed Basic but Passed PreBasic								
Failed both Basic and PreBasic								
Withdrawn								

6. Baton Training Course Retakes

If any of the officers on the course have earlier attended an extendable side-handled batons training course in your force, and are attending this course to develop their skills (for example, having failed the course last time), please give details below. Include a note of the officer's rank and gender, as well as outcome of this and previous course.

.....
.....
.....
.....

7. Reasons for Failing Basic Course

Please use the space below to explain the reasons for failures on this course.

.....
.....
.....
.....

8. Difficulties Encountered During Course

Use the space below to set out any difficulties encountered during the course.

.....
.....
.....
.....

9. Any Other Comments or Suggested Improvements to Course.

Use the space below for any other comments you may have.

.....
.....
.....
.....

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS TRAINING OFFICER REPORT, PLEASE RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR FORCE LIAISON OFFICER.

Appendix 2. Incident Report Form

TRIALS COMPARING BATONS AND TRUNCHEONS

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Touche Ross Management Consultants are helping the Home Office to monitor the trial of baton alternatives for the standard truncheon. This form is a vital part of the trial, and is designed to collect information to help this evaluation. Please write legibly.

Please complete this form:

EITHER if you draw your baton or truncheon (whether or not it is used)

OR if you are assaulted (whether or not you draw your baton or truncheon).

This form is valid between 1 March 1994 and 31 May 1994 inclusive.

This form should be completed only by officers identified by Force Liaison Officers as forming a part of this research. If in doubt, please contact your Force Liaison Officer.

If the incident results in the arrest of any person, this form may become the subject of disclosure, and a copy of it must be included in the case papers.

Officer Details

Please fill in the following information about yourself, which will be used to help with analysis of the rest of the answers. Touche Ross will keep your answers confidential and will not attribute any views or statements to individual officers in their report.

Your Force (tick one)

Cambridgeshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	(50)1
Cleveland	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Devon & Cornwall	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Greater Manchester	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Lincolnshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Merseyside	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Metropolitan	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Nottinghamshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
South Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Strathclyde	<input type="checkbox"/>	(51)1
Sussex	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Thames Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
West Mercia	<input type="checkbox"/>	4

Your Rank (tick one)

Constable	<input type="checkbox"/>	(55)1
Sergeant	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Inspector or higher rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Your Role (tick one)

Uniform/Relief: on Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	(56)1
Uniform/Relief: Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
CID	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Other (write in)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Your Police Station (write in)

.....(52)

Your Age (tick one)

19 or under	<input type="checkbox"/>	(57)1
20 - 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
30 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
40 - 49	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
50 or over	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Your Division/SubDivision/Area (write in)

.....(53)

Type of Truncheon or Baton Carried (Tick one)

Standard Truncheon	<input type="checkbox"/>	(54)1
Expandable Side-Handled Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Straight Expandable 3-Piece Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Straight Expandable 2-Piece Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
21" Rigid Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Your Gender (tick one)

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	(58)1
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

Your Length of Service (tick one)

4 years or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	(59)1
5 to 9 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
10 to 14 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
15 to 19 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
20 to 24 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
25 years and over	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

Your Name (write in)

.....

Your Shoulder Number (write in)

.....

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Office	Use	Use	Use	Only
1	2	3	4	5

Circumstances of the Incident

1. In what circumstances did you use your baton or truncheon, or were you assaulted?
(Tick one)

Organised Operations (6)

Searching Premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Arresting Suspects Wanted On Warrant	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

Public Disorder

Fight / Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Other Disorderly Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	4

Traffic Stop

No Chase	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Chase	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

**Incidents on Police
Premises**

Processing Prisoner	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Escorting Prisoner	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Dealing with Enquiries	<input type="checkbox"/>	9

Foot Stops

Enquiries	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Suspicious Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

Interrupting Crimes

Attempted Theft, Shoplifting	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Burglary	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Other (<i>write in</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Disputes

Domestic Dispute	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Other Dispute	<input type="checkbox"/>	7

Others (*write in*)

.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
----------------	--------------------------	---

2. Were any weapons carried by the other parties?
(Tick all boxes which apply)

Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	(8) 1
Knife or sharp-edged weapon	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Stick or blunt instrument	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Other (<i>write in</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
No weapon	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

3. Please enter the date and time of the incident.

Incident Date: 94
Date Month

Incident Time: : :
24 hour clock

Your Use of the Baton or Truncheon

4. To what use did you put your baton or truncheon? (*Tick one*)

Users of Expandable Side Handled Batons

Not Drawn		(9)1
Drawn		2
Extend		3
Block		4
Jab		5
Chop		6
Spin		7
Arm Lock		8
Wrist Drag		9
Other (<i>write in</i>)		0
.....		

Users of Other Batons and Truncheons

Not Drawn		(10)1
Drawn		2
Extend		3
Block		4
Strike		5
Push Back		6
Other (<i>write in</i>)		7
.....		

5. How effective did you find the baton or truncheon? (*Tick one*)

Very Effective		(11)1
Quite Effective		2
Not Very Effective		3
Not at All Effective		4
Not Drawn		5

Please give details, particularly if you responded "not very" or "not at all".

.....

.....

6. Was the baton you used better or worse than the truncheon would have been? (*Tick one*).
(*Truncheon users need not answer this question*)

Better		(12)1
Worse		2
The Same		3
Don't Know		4

7. Was the baton or truncheon used to gain access to premises? (*Tick one*)

(13) 1	(13) 2
Yes	No

8. Was the baton or truncheon damaged during this incident?

(14) 1	(14) 2
Yes	No

If yes, please give details.

.....

.....

.....

9. If you did **not** draw your baton or truncheon and were assaulted, please tick the box that best describes your reasons for not drawing the baton or truncheon.

Unable to draw		(15)1
Decided not to draw		1
Other		2

Use the space below to give more details, whichever box you have ticked above.

.....

.....

.....

Your Injuries

10. How would you describe your injuries if any? *(Tick one)*

Minor Injury	<input type="checkbox"/>	(16) ¹
Serious Injury	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

Not Injured	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
-------------	--------------------------	---

If you were not injured, now proceed to the next page.

If you were injured, please complete the remaining questions on this page.

11. Were you injured before or after you drew your baton or truncheon? *(Tick one)*

Before	<input type="checkbox"/>	(17) ¹
After	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

12. What was the nature of your injuries? *(Tick all that apply)*

Fracture	<input type="checkbox"/>	(18) ¹
Serious Bruising or Laceration	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Minor Cuts, Bruises, Sprains	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Concussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Other <i>(write in)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

13. Where were you injured? *(Tick all that apply)*

Head & Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	(19) ¹
Shoulders & Collarbone	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Upper Arm	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Elbow	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Lower Arm	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Solar Plexus and Spine	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Upper Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Lower Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Groin	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Small of the Back	<input type="checkbox"/>	(20) ¹
Buttocks & Thighs	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Knee	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Lower Leg & Shin	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Injuries to Members of the Public (including the accused or any detainees)

14. Were there any injuries to the public during this incident? *(Tick one)*

Yes ⁽²¹⁾ Please follow the instructions below.

No ² Please go to the last page of this questionnaire.

Complete questions 15 through 17 below for **each** member of the public injured. Please ensure the details recorded tally with custody records.

If more than one member of the public was injured, you will need to use more than one column.

15. How severe were these injuries and how were they caused? *(Tick one for each party)*

		1st party	2nd party	3rd party	4th party	5th party	6th party
		(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)
Minor Injuries	Caused by Baton or Truncheon ¹						
	Not Caused by Baton or Truncheon ²						

Serious Injuries	Caused by Baton or Truncheon ³						
	Not Caused by Baton or Truncheon ⁴						

16. What was the nature of these injuries? *(Tick all that apply for each party)*

		1st party	2nd party	3rd party	4th party	5th party	6th party
		(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)
Fracture	¹						
Serious Bruising or Laceration	²						
Minor Cuts, Bruises, Sprains	³						
Concussion	⁴						
Not Known	⁵						
Other <i>(write in)</i>	⁶						

Injuries to Members of the Public *(continued)*.

17. Where were they injured? *(Tick all that apply for each party)*

		1st party	2nd party	3rd party	4th party	5th party	6th party
		(34)	(36)	(38)	(40)	(42)	(44)
Head & Neck	1						
Shoulders & Collarbone	2						
Upper Arm	3						
Elbow	4						
Lower Arm	5						
Hand	6						
Solar Plexus and Spine	7						
Upper Abdomen	8						
Lower Abdomen	9						
		(35)	(37)	(39)	(41)	(43)	(45)
Groin	1						
Small of the Back	2						
Buttocks & Thighs	3						
Knee	4						
Lower Leg & Shin	5						
Foot	6						

Other Officers' Actions

18. How many **other** officers were present at the incident? *(Tick one)*

None		(46)1
One		2
Two		3
Three or more		4

19. How many of each type of baton or truncheon were drawn by **other officers** at this incident? *(Write in number)*

Standard Truncheon		(47)1
Expandable Side-Handled Baton		2
Straight Expandable Three Piece Baton		3
Straight Expandable Two Piece Baton		4
21" Rigid Baton		5
No other batons or truncheons were drawn		6

Any Other Comments

20. Use the space below to give any further information you feel may be of use to us.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE NOW RETURN THIS FORM IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR FORCE LIAISON OFFICER.

9. When wearing the baton or truncheon, what difficulty did it cause you in each of the following movements or positions?

(tick one box in each row)

	Difficulty				No View 5
	None 1	Slight 2	Fair 3	Extreme 4	
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a5)
Running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a6)
Sitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a5)
In vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a6)

10. What did you usually do with your baton or truncheon when in a vehicle? (tick one)

Wore it	<input type="checkbox"/> (7)
Removed it	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
Did not travel in vehicle with it	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)

11. What is your opinion of the suitability of the following batons or truncheons for your use (even if you have not actually used them)?

(tick one box in each row)

	Suitable		Unsuitable		Don't know
	Very 1	Quite 2	Quite 3	Very 4	
Standard Truncheon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (8)
<u>Rigid</u> Side-Handled Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (9)
<u>Expandable</u> Side-Handled Baton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (10)
Straight Expandable 3-Piece Baton (ASP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (11)
Straight Expandable 2-Piece Baton (Monadnock)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (12)
21" Rigid Baton (Arnold)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (13)

Please fill in the following information about yourself, which will be used to help with analysis of the other answers.

12. Which Force are you in? (tick one)

Cambridgeshire	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)
Cleveland	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
Devon & Cornwall	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Greater Manchester	<input type="checkbox"/> (3)
Lincolnshire	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)
Merseyside	<input type="checkbox"/> (5)
Metropolitan	<input type="checkbox"/> (6)
Nottinghamshire	<input type="checkbox"/> (35)
South Wales	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Strathclyde	<input type="checkbox"/> (3)
Sussex	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)
Thames Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> (5)
West Mercia	<input type="checkbox"/> (6)

13. What gender are you? (tick one)

Male	<input type="checkbox"/> (6)
Female	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)

14. What is your role? (tick one)

Uniform/Relief: on Foot	<input type="checkbox"/> (7)
Uniform/Relief: Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
CID	<input type="checkbox"/> (3)
Other (write in)	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)

15. Finally, please use the space below for any other comments.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Now please send it BY MONDAY 6 JUNE direct to:

Fiona Lewis
 Touche Ross Management Consultants
 Friary Court
 65 Crutched Friars
 LONDON EC3N 2NP

Appendix 4. Liaison Officer Data Form

EXPANDABLE SIDE-HANDLED BATON TRIALS

Force Liaison Officer Data

Touche Ross are currently monitoring trials of baton alternatives for the standard truncheon. This form is a vital part of the trial, and is designed to collect information to help this evaluation. Please write legibly in answering this questionnaire.

1. Force (tick as appropriate)

Cambridgeshire	
Cleveland	
Devon & Cornwall	
Greater Manchester	
Lincolnshire	
Merseyside	
Metropolitan	

Nottinghamshire	
South Wales	
Strathclyde	
Sussex	
Thames Valley	
West Mercia	

2. General Public Comments on Baton or Truncheon Usage

Please indicate the number of letters received by the Force commenting on baton or truncheon usage.

Number of letters **supportive** of baton or truncheon use

March 1 to May 31 1994	
March 1 to May 31 1993	

Number of letters **against** baton or truncheon use

March 1 to May 31 1994	
March 1 to May 31 1993	

3. Formal Complaints against Officers related to Use of Baton or Truncheon

Please give the number of formal complaints against police officers involving use of baton or truncheon, for each trial and control location, and for time periods outlined in Question 2.

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Please attach information on formal complaints for further trial locations if appropriate.

4. Disorder

Please give numbers of occurrences of disorder.

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Please attach information on disorder for further trial locations if appropriate.

5. Assaults

Please give numbers of assaults on police officers.

March 1 to May 31 1994

March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Please attach information on assaults on police officers for further trial locations if appropriate.

6. Time Lost through Assaults

Please give details of the number of **working hours** lost through sick leave following assaults on police officers.

March 1 to May 31 1994

March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Please attach information on time lost through assaults on police officers for further trial locations if appropriate.

7. Medical Reports

Please give the number of medical reports issued. Please indicate separately the number of medical reports issued where batons or truncheons were used, and those where neither batons nor truncheons were used. Should your force have more than three trial locations, you will need to provide information on the fourth and subsequent trial locations on a separate sheet.

Injuries to Police Officers: BATONS OR TRUNCHEONS USED

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Injuries to Members of the Public: BATONS OR TRUNCHEONS USED

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Injuries to Police Officers: BATONS OR TRUNCHEONS NOT USED

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

Injuries to Members of the Public: BATONS OR TRUNCHEONS NOT USED

March 1 to May 31 1994 March 1 to May 31 1993

First Trial Location (specify)		
First Control Location (specify if appropriate)		
Second Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		
Third Trial Location (specify if appropriate)		

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE RETURN IT TO:

Bernard Rix
Touche Ross Management Consultants

Appendix 5. Trainee to Trainer Ratios by Force

Table 26. Training course participants and trainers by force

	Total Number of Participants	Total Number of Training Courses	Average Number of Trainees per Course	Average Number of Training Officers	Average Number of Trainees per Trainer
Force A	91	14	6.5	1.8	3.6
Force B	101	8	12.6	2.0	6.3
Force C	49	4	12.2	2.5	4.9
Force D	142	11	12.9	1.6	8.1
Force E	103	10	10.3	2.0	5.2
Force F	60	5	12.0	2.0	6.0
Force G	72	3	24.0	2.0	12.0
Force H	144	8	18.0	1.9	9.5
Force I	150	14	10.7	1.0	10.7
Force J	100	9	11.1	2.0	5.6
Force K	309	17	18.2	2.0	9.1
Force L	181	16	11.3	2.0	5.7
Force M	111	8	13.9	1.5	9.3
TOTAL	1613	127	12.7	1.9	6.7

Appendix 6. Additional Data from Incident Report Forms

Date of reported incidents

The number of reported incidents per week fell as the trial progressed.

Table 27. Incident date

Date of Incident	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
Pre March	0	19	1
March Week 1	17	88	5
March Week 2	3	53	4
March Week 3	5	43	4
March Week 4	9	53	0
April Week 1	3	39	1
April Week 2	5	39	2
April Week 3	2	33	3
April Week 4	2	58	1
May Week 1	0	15	1
May Week 2	5	17	2
May Week 3	1	10	5
May Week 4	3	28	0
May Week 5 (part)	0	1	0

Time of Reported Incident

As one might expect, most reported incidents occurred in the evening or night. There was little difference in the times of use between batons and truncheons.

Table 28. Incident time			
Time of Incident	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
0300 - 0659	5%	10%	7%
0700 - 1059	4%	5%	7%
1100 - 1459	0%	6%	3%
1500 - 1859	18%	16%	17%
1900 - 2259	33%	25%	35%
2300 - 0259	40%	37%	28%
Not Stated	0%	1%	3%

Role of Officers Reporting Incidents

In all groups, most incidents were reported by Uniform officers.

Table 29. Role of officer reporting incident			
Role of Officer	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
Uniform: On Foot	9%	12%	24%
Uniform: Mobile	73%	76%	55%
Traffic	7%	2%	0%
CID	2%	*	0%
Other	7%	10%	21%
Not Stated	2%	*	0%

* = Less than 0.5%

Age of Officers Reporting Incidents

There were no substantial differences between the two key groups (truncheon and ESHB) in the age profiles of officers submitting incident reports.

Table 30. Age of officer reporting incident

Age of Officer	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
19 yrs or under	2%	0%	0%
20-29 years	44%	40%	17%
30-39 years	36%	49%	73%
40-49 years	16%	10%	10%
50 years or over	2%	1%	0%
Not Stated	0%	*	0%

* = Less than 0.5%

Length of Service of Officers Reporting Incidents

There was little difference between the groups in terms of the length of service of officers completing incident forms, with the exception of SE3P users, who were less likely to be officers with shorter service.

Table 31. Length of service of officer reporting incident

Length of Service	Truncheon	ESHB	SE3P
4 years or less	41%	35%	28%
5-9 years	24%	31%	52%
10-14 years	13%	14%	10%
15-19 years	15%	12%	3%
20-24 years	7%	5%	7%
25 years or more	0%	3%	0%

Appendix 7. Random Incident Report Form Qualitative Comments

This appendix summarises the additional comments provided by officers on a random selection of incident report forms.

Incidents reported by officers carrying truncheon

1. Domestic Dispute, 17.45. Male launched into an unprovoked assault. Truncheon not drawn. Officer sustained minor injury, male (injured before officer arrived) sustained no injury from incident.
2. Three officers attended disturbance, 21.15. Truncheon drawn to protect from knife attack, used to strike assailant. Offender's arm struck several times with truncheon to no effect. Finally assailant overpowered by officers and police dog. Officers and assailant uninjured, dog received stab wound to paw and cut ear.

Incidents reported by officers carrying ESHB

1. Offender had only just been bailed and within an hour had caused damage again. Offender had a warning signal for "violent conduct and weapons". Strongly suspected he would be violent to officers. Three officers drew and extended ESHB, offender came quietly. No injuries to police or offender.
2. Female officer drew ESHB whilst searching premises with two other officers. Although no intruders found, officer stated that she felt considerably more comfortable with ESHB than she would have done with the traditional truncheon.
3. Officer searching premises drew ESHB. "Having the baton in hand gave confidence when entering rooms where offenders could have been laid in wait".
4. Officer attended disturbance at 01.00. ESHB used to prevent drunken crowd of 15 from attacking others at scene. ESHB drawn. This discouraged all bar 3 from attacking. ESHB then used to jab at these three, who were then discouraged from any further action. No injuries to any party.

Incidents reported by officers carrying SE3P

1. Officer stopped individual acting suspiciously, extending SE3P. Once baton extended, youth ran off. No injuries to either party.

2. Officer addressed disturbance at 02.30 by drawing SE3P. No injuries.
3. SE3P used to gain entry through window to premises to obtain access for ambulance crew attending injured party.
4. Whilst serving summons, door answered by person known to be wanted on warrant. Three other adult males present plus Doberman. Suspect arrested and restrained using Quik-Kuf, SE3P drawn as others were about to join in. Others decided not to join in to prevent the arrest.

Appendix 8. Questions Used in Public Attitude Research

Respondent first questioned to ensure met quota criteria.

- Q1 First of all, what changes - if any - have you noticed in the equipment carried by police officers in this area? DO NOT PROMPT.
- Q2 Some police in this area have recently been issued with expandable side-handled batons like the one in this picture (PICTURE SHOWN). These replace the old truncheon. Do you know of any reason for this change?
- Q3 Have you seen police officers carrying this new baton? Or drawing the baton (that is, removing it from its holder)? Or using the baton (that is, striking or restraining someone or shielding or deflecting a blow)?
- Q4 Are you in favour of the change from truncheons to the new batons, or against it, or do you not have a view either way?
- Q5 Why is that? (asked if in favour, or against, in Q4)
- Q6 Do you think the new baton has made you feel more positive or negative about the police or has it made no difference?
- Q7 Do you think the change has made police officers more or less approachable, or had no effect?
- Q8 Do you think this change has helped the police do their job better, or not?

THANK RESPONDENT AND CLOSE