**COVID-19 Use of Force guidance update – June 2021**

This guidance updates HMPPS Governors, Directors of Privately Managed Prisons

and those responsible for contracted service delivery, on dispensation arrangements

and HMPPS expectations in relation to use of force training.

Exceptionally, and in response to the outbreak of COVID 19, all UoF training was

suspended and dispensation from the requirement to complete refresher training

was given to all staff who practice Use of Force.

**Dispensation Arrangements**

As of January 2021, Use of Force training resumed at local level on a best effort basis. It was suggested that priority be given to refreshing Use of Force Advanced trained staff who are relied upon for Operation Tornado commitment.

As of 1st September 2021, staff must have completed a local Use of Force basic refresher to be eligible to be deployed as part of Operation Tornado. The training should continue to reflect the nationally agreed SOP.

With the recent update regarding staff fitness testing, as of 1st September 2021 to be eligible for Operation Tornado staff must have completed a fitness test to the required standard. It is suggested that priority be given to those Use of Force Advanced trained staff who are relied upon for Operation Tornado commitment.

**Operation Tornado eligibility**

As of 1st September, the eligibility for supporting Operation Tornado commitment will be:

* To have undertaken local Use of Force basic refresher training within the previous 12 months
* To have completed either a Use of Force Advanced refresher or initial course at a national training centre since November 2018
* To have completed a fitness test to the required standard within the previous 12 months

For further information on any information contained in this guidance please contact the UoF queries functional mailbox ([UOFQueries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:UOFQueries@justice.gov.uk))

Guidance around Use of Force basic refreshers for all staff and PAVA/SPEAR training will be provided at a later date.