



## Detention Services Order 10/2012

### Removal of blades

**Process:** To clarify the steps to be taken when individuals conceal a blade(s) about their person.

Implementation Date: December 2012 (reissued March 2016)

Review Date: March 2018

#### Contains Mandatory Instructions

**For Action:** Immigration Removal Centres, pre-departure accommodation and short-term holding facilities, and escorting officers.

**For Information:** N/A

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**Owner:** Alan Gibson, Head of Detention Operations

**Contact Point:** Shaun Curd

**Processes Affected:** This DSO sets out instructions on the removal of blades from detainees.

**Assumptions:** All staff will have the necessary knowledge to follow the procedures set out in this DSO.

**Notes:** This DSO is a rebranded version of the previous DSO.

**Issued:** March 2016

**Version:** 1.1

## **Detention services order 10/2012**

### **Removal of blades**

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## **Introduction**

1. This instruction clarifies the steps to be taken when dealing with detainees with a history of blade use or who are known to be concealing a blade, regardless of whether it was related to removal.

## **Purpose**

2. The purpose of this instruction is to ensure that as far as possible all blades are removed from detainees prior to collection from immigration removal centres (IRC), and that appropriate risk assessment and action is taken in relation to individuals with a history of blade use.

## **Policy**

3. Detention Centre Rule 41 authorises the use of force by a detainee custody officer (DCO) when dealing with a detained person. Force must only be used when it is:
  - reasonable in the circumstances;
  - necessary in the circumstances;
  - the minimum amount of force which is necessary; and
  - proportionate to the seriousness of the circumstances

Any use of force must be recorded by the IRC Supplier manager and reported to the Home Office.

4. Any previous history of blade use or concealment should be documented in the person escort record (PER), and the Casework Information Database (CID) should be updated by DEPMU.

## **Removal of blades in an immigration removal centre**

5. DCOs and other centre staff may encounter a detainee who is concealing a razor blade or other sharp object about their person and/or making threats to use this blade to harm themselves or others. Every reasonable effort, including talking to the detainee, must be made to persuade a detainee to surrender the blade without requiring the use of force. If this fails, staff should consider whether there are any approved use of force techniques suitable for removing the blade from the detainee.
6. An attempt to retrieve a blade must be treated as a planned use of force and a risk assessment must be completed in advance. This should include consideration of the potential for the detainee to suffer personal injury as a result of any force used. If a detainee has any condition that may mean that use of force would result in a significant injury it should be included in the risk assessment. Pain compliance techniques may be necessary in appropriate cases if a detainee does not comply with requests to surrender the blade.
7. Prior to a planned intervention in the IRC the supervisor must make every reasonable effort to persuade the detainee to terminate the incident peacefully. The following steps should then be taken:

- Carry out a fully documented risk assessment to include relevant medical details;
  - Assemble the control and restraint (C&R) team (and any necessary reserves).
  - Ensure that all staff present are C&R trained and currently qualified (any staff whose qualifications have lapsed must not take part in a planned C&R intervention) including the supervising officer or manager.
  - Ensure healthcare have sufficient time to attend the scene in order to observe the intervention and relocation.
  - Video the intervention and relocation and the footage retained for 6 years for evidential purposes.
  - Brief the team about the current situation, the detainee involved and the route to where the detainee will be relocated.
8. It is recommended that all staff in a planned C&R incident are provided with, and wear, appropriate protective equipment. The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) and Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) Manager/Deputy Manager should also be invited to attend to witness the planned intervention where timings permit this, and also attend relevant briefings where appropriate.
9. If a detainee has concealed a blade internally (such as in the mouth, anus, penis or vagina) staff should verbally encourage the detainee to remove the blade himself or herself. Although staff should not attempt to extract the blade from the internal concealment themselves, appropriate pain compliance techniques may be considered in the case of a mouth concealment to encourage the detainee to open their mouth and drop the blade. When a detainee has concealed a blade in this manner, escorting staff must be informed in advance as they will need to consider this information when risk assessing the escort.

### **Individuals with a history of blade use**

10. In all cases involving detainees with a history of blade use, the IRC Supplier should hold a multi-disciplinary meeting to agree a plan to successfully remove the individual (see Annex A for template). Attendees should include, as a minimum the HOIE Manager/Deputy Manager, Returns Logistics Complex Cases team, IRC and escort supplier representatives, Healthcare supplier representative and case owner.
11. Whilst each case must be dealt with on its individual circumstances, the plan should include:
- The timing and location for service of the removal directions (RDs).
  - Where the detainee should be located following service of RDs (eg in Rule 40/42 accommodation).
  - Details of how the individual will be relocated within the IRC prior to service of the RDs.
  - The plan for undertaking a full search of the detainee, including any x-ray requirements for the detainee.

- Details for the planned removal of any blade.
  - The contingency plan for detainee removal if a blade is found but cannot be retrieved.
12. In addition to a full search of the detainee being undertaken by the IRC supplier prior to service of RDs, consideration should be made to conducting a further full search of the detainee immediately prior to removal, subject to a dynamic risk assessment. If appropriate the escorting supplier should be invited to view the full search prior to collection.
  13. Following each successful removal or attempted removal the multi-disciplinary meeting should reconvene to review the plan and the incident and discuss any lessons learned. Best practice should be shared across all IRCs via the Detention Operations Delivery Manager or Area Manager. The IRC Supplier should complete an IS91 Part C in all cases.

### **Escorting arrangements**

14. Every effort must be made by the IRC supplier to present the detainee for escort 'blade free'. Failure to do so presents a significant threat to the detainee and staff.
15. Transfer of authority for detainees from the IRC supplier to the escort supplier takes place at reception on discharge at IRCs or at another previously agreed location.
16. The escort supplier must prepare an individual risk assessment which has been authorised by DEPMU on the management of the escorting process for individuals who have a history of concealing blades. If a detainee has a history of blade use, the DCO should consider use of authorised restraint equipment to restrict access to any secreted blades or other sharp objects.
17. During escorting, DCOs may encounter a detainee who is concealing a razor blade or other sharp object about their person and/or making threats to use this blade to harm themselves or others. Every reasonable effort, including talking to the detainee, must be made to persuade a detainee to surrender the blade without requiring the use of force. If this fails, it is reasonable to consider whether any approved HOMES use of force techniques are suitable for removing the blade from the detainee.
18. An attempt to retrieve a blade must be treated as a planned use of force and a dynamic risk assessment must be completed in advance of any intervention and should include consideration of the potential for the detainee to suffer personal injury as a result of any force used. If a detainee has any medical condition that may mean that use of force would result in a significant injury, the DCO should first consult the escort supplier's medical contractor.
19. Prior to a planned intervention, the supervisor must make every reasonable effort to persuade the detainee to terminate the incident peacefully however, where force is used, this must be videoed where possible and footage retained for 6 years for evidential purposes.

## Revision History

| <b>Review date</b> | <b>Reviewed by</b> | <b>Review outcome</b>   | <b>Next review</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| January 2015       | Frances Hardy      | Rebrand   | January 2017       |
| November 2015      | Frances Hardy      | Update to operational procedures for dealing with a concealment | November 2017      |

## Returns Directorate

### Annex A – Multi-Disciplinary Meeting Agreement Form

|  |  |                                      |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Date of MDT  |  | Reason for MDT<br>i.e Blades         |  |
| Detainee<br>Name/CID No  |  |                                      |  |
| Attendees/Dial In<br>attendees   |  |                                      |  |
| Over view of case  |  |                                      |  |
| ACDT<br>History/Current details  |  |                                      |  |
| Agreed Plan of<br>action and onward<br>management of<br>individual<br><br>To include;<br>-Service of RDs (date,<br>location, those present)<br>-Planned location in<br>IRC until removal |  |                                      |  |
| Escort Collection<br>date and time   |  | To oversee final search:<br>YES/NO   |  |
| Deadline for<br>service of RD's<br>date and time   |  | Rd's received?<br>To be faxed on:    |  |
| HO Actions   |  | Point of contact/on call<br>manager: |  |
| IRC Service<br>Provider / Security<br>Actions  |  |                                      |  |
| Healthcare Actions   |  | Healthcare Concerns                  |  |
| Safeguarding<br>Considerations   |  |                                      |  |
| Additional<br>Comments   |  |                                      |  |