

IOPC reference:	2024/011495
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> Summary of IOPC conclusions

A summary of our conclusions and our rationale is set out below.

> Cumbria Constabulary - death or serious injury referral

We found no indication that any person serving with the police may have committed a criminal offence or behaved in a manner that would justify the bringing of disciplinary proceedings.

> Performance

The investigation report sets out the decisions, actions and risk assessments of Cumbria Constabulary officers and staff before and during the pursuit of Mr S, and whether officers and staff acted in line with local and national policies, procedures, guidance and training.

The report also includes an accurate summary of the evidence relating to the nature and extent of police contact with Mr S before he sustained his injuries, and whether there is any evidence that Cumbria Constabulary may have caused or contributed to the serious injuries Mr S sustained.

We considered:

- (i) whether any person to whose conduct the investigation relates has a case to answer for misconduct or gross misconduct, or has no case to answer
- (ii) whether or not disciplinary proceedings should be brought, and if so, what form they should take (particularly, the seriousness of any breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour)
- (iii) whether the performance of any person to whose conduct the investigation related is unsatisfactory and whether or not performance proceedings should be brought against any such person; and

- (iv) whether or not any matter that was the subject of the investigation should be referred to be dealt with under the reflective practice review process.

We found no indication that any person serving with the police may have committed a criminal offence or behaved in a manner that would justify the bringing of disciplinary proceedings.

We found that the pursuit and use of the tyre deflation device was in line with relevant policies and procedures, and the officers involved were trained and permitted to perform the duties they did at the time of the incident.

The pursuing officer considered their options and made appropriate risk assessments before making tactical contact with the motorcycle. While it is unfortunate that Mr S sustained serious injuries to his legs, the risk of allowing him to continue riding on deflated tyres and potentially causing even more significant injuries to himself or to other road users and pedestrians was too great.

The officers involved in this incident fully cooperated with our investigation and provided detailed accounts of their decisions and actions.

Cumbria Constabulary agreed with our determinations and are satisfied that the report does not raise any performance issues.

> Learning

We carefully considered whether there were any learning opportunities arising from the investigation. We make learning recommendations to improve policing and public confidence in the police complaints system and to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents.

We did not identify any organisational learning in this case.