



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:10/12/2025

2025/1267 - Multitools/locking blade

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please provide the following information -

Given the routine and unexpected duties of police officers

What is the forces policy on police officers carrying multitools/locking blades such as leatherman to assist in whatever occasion may arise - e.g rescue

North Wales Police does not hold any information in relation to this part of your request.

Does the force issue any such blades / multitools to any department ? Such as firearms ect to carry on duty.

Please provide make and model if items are issued.

Please see below information in relation to 'Life Hammers':

Question – What are 'Life Hammers' or Glass Breakers and how do we use them?
Is there a policy or governance on their use and can we use them?

Policy Extract – NWP do not have a force policy on use of 'Life Hammers' or guidance from the College of Policing. The application of the National Decision Model (NDM) would therefore apply to the use of a 'Life Hammer'. All RPU/PIT/and operational LPS vehicles (Response/NPT/Crime cars etc) are provided with a 'Life Hammer'.

Explanation – Glass breakers come in two main styles - Hammer and SpringLoaded. Glass breakers can also be distinguished into categories based on size, and whether they are intended to remain stationary in a vehicle or everyday carry by a person. Compared to emergency hammers such as those used in buses, glass breakers for personal use are generally smaller in size. They are often incorporated into other items such as flashlights and multi-tools, and there are many variations of glass breakers on the market.

An emergency hammer is a type of glass breaker shaped like a hammer.

Emergency hammers are also known under various names, such as bus mallets, dotty hammers, safety mallets, and bus hammers. Many are attached to a cable or an alarm device to deter theft or vandalism.

It is a simple tool with a plastic handle and a steel tip. Its primary use is for breaking through vehicle windows and vertical glazing, which are often tempered, in the event of a crash which prevents exit through the doors. They are commonly found

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on public transport, in particular trains and buses and buildings worldwide.

NB: There can also be a cutting tool at the other end of the hammer. This is used for cutting through seatbelts in the event that they are inhibiting a passenger's exit.

A spring-loaded glass breaker takes away the need to swing a tool to break a window. Upon breaking the glass, the metal tip is held up against the window and a pin is pulled back and released to activate a spring, either automatically or manually. Spring-loaded glass breakers can be designed to be used underwater or to simply reduce the strength needed to shatter a window. When a car is submerged underwater, a hammer style glass breaker becomes significantly more difficult to use. While spring-loaded glass breakers can be convenient in some cases, most spring-loaded glass breakers are also limited to the amount of force the spring can deliver which could limit the user's ability to break tough glasses.

Conclusion – NWP provide Life Hammers in all RPU/PIT/and operational LPS vehicles (Response/NPT/Crime cars etc) and is something which should be checked by the supervisor as part of the weekly vehicle checks.

Question – What are 'Life Hammers' or Glass Breakers and how do we use them?
Is there a policy or governance on their use and can we use them?

Answer – NWP do not have a policy on the use of Life Hammers or Glass Breakers, Officers should therefore consider the National Decision Model when making the decision to use one. There are a number of video tutorials on Youtube on how to use 'Life Hammers' to which you can refer.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 08/12/2025