

RESTRICTED

DRAFT PRESS STATEMENTPLASTIC BATON ROUNDS

The Ministry of Defence said today that the remaining stocks from 34,000 of the plastic baton rounds manufactured in 1996 would be restricted to training use only with immediate effect. This decision follows further investigations into the performance of operational stocks of baton rounds put in place after the withdrawal from service earlier this year of all rounds manufactured in 1994.

The investigations have revealed that the plastic plugs used in these particular rounds have a variation in weight that could marginally degrade their accuracy. Although no evidence exists that this variation in weight would have any notable effect on the number or severity of casualties, immediate action has been taken to put in place the restriction on the use of these rounds. 100% inspection has been re-introduced to ensure that all plastic plugs used in current and future contracts conform to specification.

RESTRICTED