

# SHOOT to KILL



exploring police use of firearms

MAURICE PUNCH

*"This book provides a lively and accessible overview of a neglected and widely misunderstood subject. It is essential reading for students, academics, police officers, policy makers, politicians and all those concerned about police use of deadly force."*

**Dr Ben Bowling,  
King's College London**

*"Since international terrorism came to London streets and the mistaken shooting dead of Jean Charles de Menezes in 2005, issues around armed policing have yearned for serious, in-depth analysis. This excellent book achieves this and it should be a 'must read' for all those involved with, or interested in, the profound issues of life and death that lie at heart of Maurice Punch's analysis."*

**Professor P.A.J. Waddington,  
University of Wolverhampton**

The shooting of Jean-Charles de Menezes at Stockwell tube station in 2005 raised acute issues about operational practice, legitimacy, accountability and policy making regarding police use of fatal force. It dramatically exposed a new policy, referred popularly as "shoot to kill", which came not from Parliament but from the non-statutory ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers). This vital and timely book unravels these often misunderstood matters with a fresh look at firearms practice and policy in a traditionally "unarmed" police service. It is essential reading for all those interested in the state's role in defining coercion and in policing a democracy.

Publishing 24 November 2010 / £19.99 / ISBN 9781847424723

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