



AUTHOR: CI 425 Carl Bourne

SPONSOR: ACC Julian Moss

Decision NUMBER: D09/2019

SUBMITTED TO: Martin Surl, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

SUBJECT:

Update on action 20 of 2018 regarding implementation of Spit Guards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

OPCC governance board requested an update with regards to the force wide roll out of Spit Guards.

The following report provides that update and demonstrates the limited but effective use of this item of equipment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Governance Board notes this update report.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:

Signature:

Date: 30 April 2019

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

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|--|-------------------|
| <p>Public Access to Information</p> <p><i>Information in this form and associated reports is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011. Where it has been indicated that this is a decision of significant public interest, all of this form except Part Two will be made available on the website of the OPCC.</i></p> <p><i>Any information that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part One but instead on a separate Part Two form.</i></p> | |
| <p>Is this a decision of significant public interest?</p> <p><i>This includes a decision with any impact on the community, expenditure in excess of £50,000, or any decision that would be of obvious interest to the media or the general public</i></p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Is there a Part Two form?</p> <p><i>This section should only include information that, if published:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>would, in the view of the chief officer of the police, be against the interests of national security;</i> b) <i>might, in the view of the chief officer of police, jeopardise the safety of any person;</i> c) <i>might, in the view of the chief officer of police, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice; or</i> d) <i>is prohibited by any enactment.</i> e) <i>breaches commercial sensitivity</i> | <p>No</p> |

| ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED) | Comments including who has approved the report if applicable |
|---|--|
| Has legal advice been sought on this submission if required? | No |
| Has the Chief Finance Officer been consulted, if required? | No |
| Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, as appropriate? | Yes. This was done when the guards were originally implemented |
| How is the recommendation consistent with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan? | Yes, this initiative supports the Plan Priority to improve the safety of officers, staff and the general public when dealing with violent offenders. |
| Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation? | N/A |
| Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media, community, staff or partner interest and how they might be managed? | Previously done |
| Have all relevant implications and risks been considered? | Previously done |

PART ONE – For publication

1. Purpose of the report

OPCC governance board requested an update with regards to the force wide roll out of Spit Guards. This was action 20 of 2018

2. Background

Time line

April 2018-

Custody trial of Spit Guards approved for force wide roll out
[Video](#) completed to demonstrate usage

September 2018

CI Carl Bourne instructed to complete roll out action

October 18-

Training commenced with staff by Bob Holt
350 spit hoods ordered to be deployed across force in cars

November 18-

[Policy](#) published for force wide use subject to training issued. Items would be placed in cars.

Training commenced with staff by Bob Holt on shift handovers
Bulletin published

December 18-

Due to feedback a decision to make personal issue if people want them. Bulletin issued and another 400 ordered
Training commenced at weekly Officer Safety Training

Training

Significant training was provided to FRU officers on shift handovers from October to November. 176 officers were trained. Since December this Spit guard training has become part of officers OST yearly refresher carried out by Steve Bridgeman and Sarah Freckleton. This additional training has facilitated a further 180 to be trained. The weekly OST training will continue, thus by the end of the year technically everyone will have been trained. IPLDP student officers will all have been trained prior to street deployment.

Issue and roll out

Originally just allocated in cars but some officers wanted personal issue. Thus policy changed to facilitate personal issue to support our staff.

FOI's

18 requests that mention spit hoods have been received since July 2016. 7 of these fell in time period that Gloucestershire were using spit guards. These now get directed to Use of Force Lead CI Carl Bourne to respond.

Number of usages

Total of 30 Glospol usages covering Custody trial and full implementation. These have been in various situations. A few extracts from this document to explain usage are quoted below;

- Male decamped from a stolen vehicle. He was located by the dog unit. The male then ran from police and was detained by the dog. He was bitten to his right lower leg. I then assisted, arrested and restrained the male. He was non-compliant and aggressive. During his arrest and search he attempted to spit at officers, so a spit hood was placed on him.
- The initial report was made by her eldest daughter stating that she was slitting her throat and wrists and urgent assistance was required. She explained that she wanted

Update on action 20 of 2018 regarding implementation of Spit Guards - GSC - OFFICIAL

to kill herself and others numerous times throughout the incident, thus why she was sectioned under 136 of the Mental Health Act. She already stated that she was going to 'KICK OFF' if we sectioned her, so that is why handcuffs were applied to avoid violence. In addition, she began spitting at the cage, whilst being transported to WOTTON LAWN and then proceeded to spit at me when I was waiting with her in the reception, which warranted the application of a spit hood.

- Male was being escorted out of a nightclub by door staff when he placed his hand under a female member of door staff's top, grabbing hold of her breast. He then grabbed hold of the female's hair, pulling it down and spat in her face. Male had to be restrained on the floor by door staff and he continued to actively resist throughout. He was handcuffed in the rear stack position and a spit hood was placed over his head to prevent any further spitting. Once in custody, the male continued to be physically aggressive and he had to be placed straight into a cell.
- Male took LSD, was violent and spitting blood at officers throughout. Restrained as had lashed out and was very unpredictable. Handcuffed first before leg/limb restraints used to protect self and police and medical staff due to his aggression. Spit guard used as he spat blood in officer's faces several times. suffering from ABD as a result of the LSD use

Scrutiny of usages

We now have a Use of force Scrutiny panel jointly chaired by CI Carl Bourne and a member of IAG. This group have assessed the use of the spit guards and will focus on these items in some future meetings.

Officer feelings

Quote from Ps 2111 Marcus Forbes George

"Without exception the addition of the availability of spit hoods to an officers PPE is hugely welcomed by all officers.

A number of officers have utilised spit hoods on arrested persons, or been present during the application of the hood. Since the introduction of spit hoods I am extremely pleased to say that no officers I have spoken to have been subject to an assault or threatened assault via spitting.

This is an excellent result, considering the previous frequency that officers were spat at, or threatened to be spat at.

In my role as a front line supervisor and custody Sergeant, I have witnessed the professional manner in which officers utilise the spit hood, and I am content that they are only used as a last resort or where the risk of an assault is significant or repeated.

The high quality of the initial spit hood training delivered to all users ensured that all officers are clearly utilising the national decision making model when considering the use of a spit hood.

Officers categorically prefer personal issue spit hoods, which are routinely carried within the officers body armour pouch. This is primarily due to the ease of immediate availability, and reduces the delay in trying to locate one within a vehicle.

In summary they are a welcomed addition which are being used proportionately and in line with the training delivered"

3. Recommendation(s)

That the Governance Board note this update report.

4. Financial and resource implications

350+400 spit hoods ordered at £1.89 each= £1417.50

5. Risk assessment

Not applicable

6. Equality & Diversity impact assessment

Not applicable

7. Environmental impact assessment

Not applicable

8. Consultation

Not applicable

9. Discussed with Communications & Engagement

Not applicable

10. Conclusion

CI Carl Bourne has overall responsibility for use of force policies, scrutiny, training, and data publications. Carl Bourne will continually monitor this controversial piece of officer safety equipment and that can be regarded as business as usual and no further high-level monitoring needs to be performed.

SPONSORING BOARD MEMBER APPROVAL

Name: Julian Moss

Job title: Assistant Chief Constable

Signature:



Date: 9th April 2019

CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 10 April 2019