

Does your police service use spit guards?

**Yes. West Midlands Police do use spit guards**

If yes, when were they approved for use and by whom?

**December 2017. The Chief Constable sanctioned the issue and use.**

Did your police service undertake any form of assessment of the spit guards prior to operational use. If yes, please provide copies of the assessment.

**A public consultation event was held at police headquarters on Monday 24 July 2017, attended by around 50 local people, councillors, medics and others. There was unanimous support for the introduction of spit guards.**

What is the brand and manufacturer of spit guard that is used?

**KIT Design 1914-B Spit Guard.**

On how many occasions in the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 (to date) have spit guards been used on detainees?

**Since January 2018 until the date of your original request (October 2018 spit guards have been recorded as used on 216 occasions.**

Have there been any adverse occurrences to detainees when spit guards have been deployed in the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 (to date)?

**In order to answer this question we would need to conduct a manual search which would exceed the FOI cost limit. The way our data is recorded does not allow us to say that an injury or adverse occurrence was purely down to the use of spit guards. Spit guards are recorded as 'Use of Force' and are not the only use of force recorded. Our system does not recall which use of force resulted in a minor injury or adverse occurrence.**

**However the devices are medically certified and guarantee no mouth or airway blockage, to prevent asphyxiation through the ingestion of fluids or solids. They allow clear visibility which helps reduce panic and avoids the escalation of violence.**

Please provide copies of any training materials used to train officers in the use of spit guards.

**Officers are required to watch an online training video before they are certified to use or issued with spit guards. Refresher training is then provided as part of the officers personal; safety training.**