

Force Health, Safety & Welfare Committee minutes extracts – Spit Hoods

5<sup>th</sup> July 2013:

**NAME 1 – SECTION 40** raised the issue of spit hoods and advised that this had been brought to the committee as it had been rejected twice previously by the U&E Group. It was noted that this would likely be a control within the CJS function, and that any final decision would likely lie with Rick Burgess, who is moving to CJS imminently.

It was agreed that a risk assessment was required, to take account of all relevant data. Dr. Bhogadia informed the committee that the likelihood of contracting a disease from someone spitting at you is very low.

3 October 2013:

Paul Hall advised that work is in progress to finalise risk assessment for use of spit hoods in liaison with the Consultation Group.

Keith Fraser reiterated Dr. Bhogadia's position that whilst extremely unpleasant the likelihood of contracting communicable diseases from spittle is low. He added that washing the area affected is an effective response in dealing with harm arising from contact with spittle.

Keith Fraser is liaising with a number of key stakeholders on this issue and will present his findings to CJS / U&E Committee for a final decision.

30<sup>th</sup> January 2014:

Keith Fraser is liaising with a number of key stakeholders on this issue and will present his findings to CJS / U&E Committee for a final decision and update the Force H&S Committee accordingly.

28 April 2014:

Keith Fraser advised that this matter is being referred to the U&E Committee and that he would bring feedback to the next meeting of the Force H&S Committee.

15<sup>th</sup> July 2014:

Supt. Keith Fraser advised that most police forces do not use spit hoods and that the Supt's. Assoc. is not fully in support of them due to issues around public perception, cost and the view of medical opinion who consider the health risks low. He thanked the Federation, medical practitioners and Supt's. Assoc. for their input.

ACC Marcus Beale commented that this issue is for U&E Group remit going forward.