**POLICY INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Management and Deployment of Spit Guards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference number</td>
<td>OPS/001/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective date</td>
<td>March, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review date</td>
<td>March, 2020</td>
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**POLICY SUMMARY**

BTP has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide adequate personal safety equipment and training for all relevant personnel who could potentially face violent situations involving Spitting.

This policy has been put in place to set out the criteria for the selection and acquisition of protective equipment known as Spit Guards. It also sets the standards for the training and deployment of Spit Guards. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an efficient and consistent approach adopted across the force in regard to the use of Spit Guards.

**POLICY OWNERSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Sponsor</th>
<th>Assistant Chief Constable Specialist Operations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Owner</td>
<td>Chief Superintendent Specialist Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Author</td>
<td>Inspector Specialist Operations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

British Transport Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy. If you have any queries relating to this policy please write to: Information Governance Unit British Transport Police 2nd Floor, 3 Callaghan Square Cardiff, CF10 5BT or email: FOI@btp.pnn.police.uk
PURPOSE
BTP has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide adequate personal safety equipment and training for all relevant personnel who could potentially face violent situations involving Spitting.

This policy has been put in place to set out the criteria for the selection and acquisition of protective equipment known as Spit Guards. It also sets the standards for the training and deployment of Spit Guards. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an efficient and consistent approach adopted across the force in regard to the use of Spit Guards.

SCOPE
This policy is applicable to all Police Officers, Special Constables (SC’s), Police Community Support Officers (PCSO’s) and Police Staff. (These groups will be referred to as relevant personnel throughout this policy.)

KEY INFORMATION
BTP has seen an increase in notifiable crimes involving spitting.

Relevant personnel are likely to encounter incidents which can have significant health risk from transmission of infection through contaminated body fluids from Spitting by non-compliant violent subjects, being detained or in custody. Spit Guards provide an additional tactical option to be considered in such circumstances.

A Spit Guard is a transparent, breathable mesh hood that is placed over the subjects head to restrict the transfer of body fluids from the mouth by means of spitting. Its
application should prevent a person from spitting beyond the confines of the guard and allow for the safe transportation of a person being conveyed to / in prisoner transport, to a suitable place of detention or whilst in that detention facility.

MOINTORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored within the scope of “Use of Force Governance Board” chaired by ACC Specialist Operations. It will be reviewed once every three years (unless circumstances dictate it should be reviewed more frequently) to ensure that the most up to date and relevant process for managing BTP policy is in place.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments / Reason for Amendments</th>
<th>Amended By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>03/02/2017</td>
<td>Spit Guard Policy created and finalised ready for consultation/EIA carried out</td>
<td>T/Insp Specialist Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>03/02/2017</td>
<td>Minor review before consultation. Consultation sent out on 03/02/17.</td>
<td>Policy Team, Strategy &amp; Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>28/02/2017</td>
<td>Minor amendments made following consultation feedback</td>
<td>T/Insp Specialist Operation</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>03/02/2017</td>
<td>Approved by Chief Superintendent Specialist Operations</td>
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<td>22/03/17</td>
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ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Authorised Professional Practice Guidance – Use of Force
- Authorised Professional Practice - National Decision Model