



Gary Maxey  
 Information Rights  
 Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,  
 Woburn Road, Kempston,  
 Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547  
 Email: [foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

12th March 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/00892

By email only to:

Dear

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/00892**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 8th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. What is your forces' policy on using spit guards or hoods. If you do use them - what was the first date of their implementation?
2. How many times have you recorded spit guards or hoods being used?  
 - Please divide the data by the individual's age, gender and ethnicity. If possible, can you also include in how many cases the individual had either known, or suspected, mental health problems?
3. If this is possible, please include the full list of complaints made against the police involving the use of spit hoods (including details).

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

**RESPONSE** - Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

1. Bedfordshire Police does not hold a policy for use of spit hoods/guards. A risk assessment form is completed when used.
2. Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire work within a collaborated unit and therefore data is only held from 2016.

Recorded Use of Force, Spit Guard, Bedfordshire Police		2016-17 (6 months, Oct 16 - Mar 17)	2017-18	2018-19 (11 months, Apr 18 - Feb 19)
Gender	Male	9	68	55
	Female	3	13	12
Age range	10 years or under			
	11 - 17 years		11	3
	18 - 34 years	9	51	49
	35 - 49 years	3	13	12
	50 - 64 years		3	3
	65 years and over			
Ethnic group	Asian	1	4	5
	Black	1	3	8
	Mixed		5	4
	Other (incl Chinese)		11	2
	White	10	55	47
<b>Mental Health Disability</b>			12	20

3. No complaints have been recorded within Bedfordshire Police to date.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey  
Information Rights

Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.