



Inspector Dave Lockyear
Information Access Manager
Information Management Services

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Direct line **Direct fax**
020 7601 2279 020 7601 2088

Your ref: **Our ref:**

15 June 2009

Mr James Collins

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Mr Collins

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REF: COL/09/177

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9 April 2009 in which you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Having just watched the Guardian Newspapers video of the seeming to be assault of Ian Tomlinson at a G20 protest in London I noticed that many officers, mainly those in riot gear had obscured their faces with some kind of scarf. Is it now a standard operating procedure (SOP) for officers when wearing riot gear to obscure their faces and if so why and for how long has this been SOP? If none of your officers are ever seconded for 'riot' duty please indicate this.*

The article of clothing referred to is a standard police issue flash proof headover. This item is used in circumstances where additional protective clothing is required and provides added protection against flash burns thus providing officers with an appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations gives the City of London Police an absolute duty to provide PPE to employees where risks cannot be controlled by other means. The Police (Health and Safety) Regulations require this provision to be complied with so far as reasonably practicable where the characteristics of the policing activity are such that compliance would conflict with the exercise of police powers or performance of police duties.

PPE is defined as all equipment designed to be worn or held by a person at work to protect against one or more risks and any addition or accessory designed to meet this objective. The City of London Police provides suitable PPE to their employees where this is necessary and appropriate.

In deciding as to whether PPE is suitable the City of London Police considers if it is:

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- Appropriate for the risk(s) involved and the conditions where exposure may occur.
- Takes account of the ergonomic requirements and state of health of the person who may wear it.
- Able to fit all wearers correctly.
- Effective to prevent or adequately control the risk(s) involved without increasing overall risk, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to your request. Should you have any further questions, please contact me via e-mail, letter or telephone, quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

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