

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Name of policy, procedure or activity:

ROADSIDE BREATH TEST

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What is an EIA?

An EIA is an evidence based assessment of how a policy or activity will positively support Gwent Police’s general equality duties, as well as identify any potential negative disproportionate impact on people or groups of people.

The EIA will also outline any steps to redress this.

For ease of reference, within this document the term ‘policy or activity’ will be used, but must be taken to mean any functions, activities or decisions that may affect external communities or internal personnel.

1.0 Identification section

Title: Roadside Breath Test

Reference: 304/2 b issue 2

Chief Officer Lead: ACC

Service Area: Uniform Ops

Document Written by: Sgt Uniform Ops

Department Responsible: Uniform Ops

Document Lead: Sgt Uniform Ops

Review Date: June 13

2.0 Purpose

Please answer all of the following questions, using guidance information in section 6 to help you with your responses.

2.1 Aims

What are the aims of the policy or activity and how do they fit with the wider aims of the organisation?

The aim of this procedure is to provide a consistent approach in the use of the hand held device across the Force.

The Home Office and Department for Transport (DfT) have led a national change in road side breath testing devices. This change will enable data to be gathered electronically. This procedure will outline how police personnel will operate the devices, retain and submit the data collected.

This procedure has been written to inform police personnel of the operating and maintenance instructions to be complied with when using the Home Office approved device, the device currently used within the Force is the Lion Alcolmeter 500 B.

The hand held device will only be used, downloaded and calibrated by police officers who have received the correct training in line with its use. This procedure outlines the responsibilities placed on police personnel for its use and data collection.

2.2 Motivators

What are the motivators or driving forces in the development of this policy or activity?

The Department for Transport (DfT) have provided the finance for the provision of the new road side breath screening devices to each police force within England and Wales. The device that Gwent will be using is the Lion Alcolmeter 500B.

This device removes the need to record breath tests manually and provides the Government with more detailed and accurate data which is needed to inform policy decisions and changes to legislation.

Precise information about the number of test, time of day and level of alcohol found is essential to any decision made about police powers, procedures and changes in prescribed alcohol levels.

This new information will provide benefits to police forces and government.

The device will record the date, time and breath alcohol result of each test automatically, by a simple menu driver process before the test is conducted. It will record the reason for the test and the age and gender of the subject

2.3 Equality duties

This section outlines if and how this policy or activity helps support Gwent Police's equality duties. Protected characteristics are listed in the Guidance document in sections 3.1 to 3.10.

2.3.1 How does this policy or activity help to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation?

This policy is aimed at road safety and ensuring that persons are not driving vehicles whilst unduly under the influence of alcohol. It is important that the procedure is used proportionately and fairly, although there is evidence to suggest that by reducing drinking and driving serious accidents are avoided.

2.3.2 How does this policy or activity help to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?

This procedure is aimed at treating all drivers fairly, whilst ensuring that the unlawful issue of driving with excess alcohol is positively dealt with. Clearly it will be important to ensure that the community are aware of our roads policing strategy.

2.3.3 How does this policy or activity help to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?

This procedure aims to ensure that throughout Gwent that road safety is paramount. Gwent Police has had international success with a video involving young people 'COW', which aims to highlight the potential dangers involved in the use of vehicles on the road. In this case the use of mobile phones.

3.0 Assessment

This section assesses whether there any aspects of the policy or activity, including how it is delivered, or accessed, that could contribute to inequality or discrimination. Please answer all of the following questions, using guidance information in section 6 to help you with your responses. You should provide evidence in this section for your answers.

3.1 Age

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

Young men in their 20s are four times more likely to be involved in drink-drive accidents than other age groups.

Therefore this procedure has relevance to age. The organisation has developed strategies for communicating and outreaching to young people to offer driving awareness, such as the COW video. However the stopping of vehicles as a preventative measure may assist in saving lives if implemented proportionately and fairly.

3.2 Disability

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

It is acknowledged that often individuals who suffer disability are sometimes required to take strong medication and therefore should not drink or drive. However it is unlikely that with a proportionate response that this should have a disproportionate impact on the public.

3.3 Gender reassignment

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

There is no evidence that this procedure will have a negative disproportionate impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.

3.4 Marriage and civil partnership

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

There is no evidence that this procedure will have a negative disproportionate impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.

3.5 Pregnancy and maternity

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

There is no evidence that this procedure will have a negative disproportionate impact on persons who share this protected characteristic. Although it should not be assumed either that persons sharing this characteristic are unlikely to offend.

3.6 Race

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

It is suggested that nationally (EHCR), black people are still stopped and searched at least six times the rate of white people. Asian people are about twice as likely to be stopped and searched as white people.

Therefore in implementing this procedure it is important to ensure the stopping of vehicles is exercised fairly and not based on the race of the individual.

3.7 Religion or belief

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

The stopping of individuals generally who often share a particular cultural belief to give roadside breath tests can be seen as unfair if it is disproportionate in relation to others who do not share that religion or belief. Care needs to be taken to ensure that this does not increase community tensions.

3.8 Sex

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

It is acknowledged that drinking and driving has in recent years increased in women. Therefore there could be a negative disproportionate impact if there is an assumption that men should be stopped more than women. A new study has revealed that females who drink and drive are often older, better educated and divorced. The number of women drivers caught drunk behind the wheel has increased rapidly since the mid-1990s. In 1995, 6,793 female drivers were found guilty of drink-driving, compared with 10,765 in 2004.

3.9 Sexual orientation

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

There is no evidence that this procedure will have a negative disproportionate impact on persons who share this protected characteristic.

3.10 Welsh Language

Could the policy or activity have a negative disproportionate impact on people who share this protected characteristic?

There is a possibility that use of translators may be needed when carrying out parts of this procedure. Officers should be aware of the translator procedures and the welsh language scheme.

4.0 Actions and outcomes

This section lists any actions that will need to be taken in order to address any adverse impact that has been identified. Please complete all the sections below and see the guidance information in section 6 for a more detailed explanation.

4.1 Action Plan

Impact identified: Ensure that there are appropriate strategies in place to ensure that roads policing issues are effectively dealt with.

Action : To ensure that staff are properly trained with the appropriate skills and abilities.

Rationale: To minimise tensions and ensure that individuals are not discriminated against and treated fairly with dignity and respect.

Completion date: Ongoing

Review date: June 13

4.2 Outcomes

This section summarises the outcome of the policy or activity following this assessment. (Delete as appropriate and see section 6 on outcomes for a more detailed explanation).

Major change needed to the policy or activity No

The policy or activity has been written in order to mitigate Any adverse impact.

The policy or activity continues, although there is always the potential for adverse impact if the procedure is not implemented appropriately.

4.3 Review

This assessment and the policy or activity will be reviewed by June 2013