

Lincolnshire Police

Policy Document



SMART WATER policy PD 269

Policy document information

Reference number:	PD 269
Policy sponsor:	DCC
Policy owner:	Head of PVP
Author:	DCI PVP
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Version history

Version	Date	Reason for issue
1	23/04/2024	New Policy
2	8 May 2024	Amendments to para 2.3, 2.3.3 and 2.5.1
3	2 June 2026	Biennial Review by DI Everington and Guy Leach. Addition of Appendix F – Smart Water Deployment Process Map Equality Impact Assessment – Removal of previous EIA, Addition of full EIA for the updated version of Policy PD 269 May 2026.

Code of Ethics

All staff involved in carrying out functions under this policy and associated procedures and appendices will do so in accordance with the principles of the Code of Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public.

Legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Proportionality has been identified as the key to Human Rights compliance, this means striking a fair balance between the rights of the staff and those of the rest of the community. There must be a reasonable relationship between the aim to be achieved and the means used.

Equality and Diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our legal obligation in relation to the equality duty. In addition, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety Issues

have been considered. Adherence to this policy or procedure will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

Other legislation/law which this policy has been drafted to comply with:

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [H&S legislation](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)

Security classification

Policy to be published on Intranet: Yes

Policy to be published on Force Website: Yes

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

This Policy has been checked against APP and there is none in relation to the subject matter of this Policy.

1. Policy aims (Purpose)

- 1.1. Lincolnshire Police is committed to providing safeguarding measures to victims of domestic abuse. The purpose of this document is to outline the policy and associated procedures for the deployment of SMART WATER.
- 1.2. This guidance specifically relates to the allocation, deployment, police response and withdrawal of SMART WATER and the relevant deterrent options that it offers to support Lincolnshire Police in the protection and safeguarding of high-risk vulnerable persons and in some cases medium risk victims.
- 1.3. It is the Policy of Lincolnshire Police to instruct staff in relation to best practice and that of APP from the College of Policing.

2. Policy statement (Key information)

- 2.1. The SMART WATER product was originally designed and utilised within policing and by private industry to act as a deterrent and a method for identifying stolen property. Smart Water consists of a liquid containing a code. The presence of Smart Water can be seen under ultraviolet light. It is still applied to valuable items, so that if they are stolen and later recovered by police, their original owner can be determined after laboratory testing of a sample. The policing purpose that it will be used for is to identify that a suspect has been in the vicinity of a victim or their home. The identification of the SMART WATER on the suspect would assist evidentially, in investigating an alleged crime and achieving a successful prosecution.

2.2. Definitions

SMART WATER

- 2.2.1. The safeguarding of vulnerable people is the responsibility of all police officers and staff within Lincolnshire Police. The use of SMART WATER is one of a number of tactical options that should be considered when implementing a safety plan to manage the risk posed to potential victims of domestic abuse.
- 2.2.2. Officers should refer to the College of Policing, Forensic marking to deter repeat victimisation related to domestic abuse and sexual offences.
- 2.2.3. SMART WATER is an initiative that aims to provide, high risk domestic abuse victims with an enhanced service, but it does not exclude those individuals who are at medium risk of domestic abuse, if the circumstances justify its use.
- 2.2.4. The education and guidance provided to the person at risk, when being provided with the product, will be paramount to the successful execution and use. Once deployed to a person at risk, the identifying marker will become traceable through the Police Safeguarding Hub where it will be linked to the person at risk, who was issued product and an associated NICHE occurrence.

2.2.5. The product will be tracked solely within Police Safeguarding Hub.

2.3. The identification of SMART WATER being allocated.

2.3.1. The deployment of Smart Water and its associate products will be administratively, managed by the Vulnerability Coordinators located in the Police Safeguarding Hub at Grantham Police Station.

There are three options that can be considered for deployment.

- Grease - This is a waterproof grease which can be used inside or outside of the home to deter entry.
- SmartTag - This is a spray which can be used within the home or carried and used in public.
- Home packs – This contains marker and stickers identifying SMART WATER in use.

Smart Water deployment will be identified using a Niche occurrence. This will be linked to Guardian. A dedicated Niche Occurrence will be created to manage the deployment and recovery of the relevant product. Niche Flags will be placed on the person at risk and the perpetrators nominal records, indicating that they are subject of a Smart Water deployment. The unique identification number of the product will be linked to the Niche record using the Occurrence ID's (Other).

The Safeguarding Hub will manage a spread sheet to record deployments and recovery etc.

2.3.2. The principal allocation should be to the highest risk victims of domestic abuse and or persons over the age of 18 years. However, it will not be limited to such victims recognising that it may be appropriate to support the safeguarding of high-risk individuals in other cases e.g. stalking, witness intimidation etc.

2.3.3. The rationale for issuing or not issuing a product must be recorded within the overall safety plan on NICHE in the first instance. There may be times when the circumstances dictate that this tactic is required where it is not a high-risk case. These circumstances should be reviewed by the relevant

LPSH D/Inspector or LPSH D/Sgt where applicable prior to deployment. The authority also sits with the Response Inspector/ Sgt's out of hours. To determine suitability for allocation the below areas should be considered because they may void the feasibility.

- Is the vulnerable person engaging with the police and partners?

2.3.4. The individual **MUST** be engaged with the police or partner agencies prior to consideration being made to authorise the allocation of Smart Water to an individual.

Their details will need to be recorded, and consent obtained, and they need to understand that the deployment of the product must be as a deterrent and in self-defence. When deployed the identifying marker will be identified through laboratory analysis. The deployment of the product, by a person at risk, will invoke the required response from the local force based upon the Threat, Harm Risk and by their vulnerability.

If this is not in place, then allocation and deployment will not be suitable to this individual.

- Does the vulnerable person have the capacity to understand what the product is and understand the implication of a false deployment against another?

If not, it will not be suitable to allocate in this circumstance. Those victims where English is not their first language will be advised of the service appropriately to ensure they understand how it works and can utilise the product lawfully.

2.4. Where a decision is made to withdraw the product.

2.4.1. Where a decision is made to withdraw the product, the rationale for this must be recorded within the OEL on NICHE. The LPSH must be notified to monitor the removal of the product and associated items from the allocated person.

- 2.4.2. SMART WATER products are a finite resource for the Force, and operational judgement will always be the over-riding factor in determining whether to issue or retrieve/withdraw them. LPSH SPOCs will be responsible for the decision to withdraw the product liaising with the case officer where appropriate and the LPSH D/Insp and D/Sgts.
- 2.4.3. The guidance below indicates some circumstances in which it may be appropriate to withdraw SMART WATER from the person to whom it has been issued. These may include circumstances in which the user does not wish to return the product, or indeed while their risk level remains high.

2.5. Factors when considering the retrieval of an authorised product may include.

- Changes in circumstances have reduced the risk to the individual to a level suggesting SMART WATER is no longer required/ appropriate (i.e. no longer high-risk).
 - The individual is now cohabiting with the offender, rendering the existence of a 'sensitive policing application' inappropriate.
 - There is evidence of the individual misusing the product and application.
 - The individual has disengaged with the police and/or partner agencies, suggesting the possibility that the individual may be unlikely to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to SMART WATER and lawful use.
- 2.5.1. This is not an exhaustive or definitive list and operational judgement must be exercised in every case. The recovered product should be checked for any defects or damage and subject to it, successfully passing scrutiny it can be recirculated within the stock of available products.

3. Other related documents and appendices

- Appendix A – Notification of deployment form
- Appendix B – User responsibility and declaration form

- Appendix C – Police issue notice to perpetrator
- Appendix D – SMART WATER Standard Operating Procedures
- Appendix E – Forensic strategy for recovery
- Appendix F – Smart Water Deployment Process Map

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1. This policy will be subject to an ongoing review by the Head of PVP to ensure that any changes in legislation, guidance or procedures are incorporated as soon as possible. A formal review will be completed biennially.

5. Who to contact about this policy

- 5.1. This policy is owned by D/Superintendent PVP. Any questions about this can be directed to, The LPSH D/Insp, D/Sgts and Vulnerability Coordinators.