**Coronavirus Act 2020 - police guidance published**

The College of Policing and National Police Chief’s Council have today (Friday, 3 April 2020) published new guidance around additional powers for police in England under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The guidance explains the additional powers which police now have to support healthcare professionals following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

This additional guidance was scheduled to follow on from the Health Protection Regulations guidance published last week to ensure policing provides a measured and consistent approach during this unprecedented situation.

The police’s approach to all COVID-19 powers is for officers to engage, explain, encourage the public and only enforce as a last resort.

The guidance includes details on the need for officers to work at the direction or advice of healthcare professionals in using these powers. The law allows officers to remove or detain a suspected infectious person for screening and assessment where necessary.

**Chief Constable Mike Cunningham, CEO of the College of Policing, said:**

“Policing stands together with colleagues across the NHS who are on the frontline of saving lives. The legislation allows those caring for us to call on policing support if necessary.

“These are unprecedented times and we are clear that these powers are only to be used in exceptional circumstances and only on the advice or direction of healthcare professionals.

“The police will continue to work with communities to help save lives and I am grateful to all officers and staff who are putting themselves at risk during this time.”

**Chief Constable Charlie Hall, National Police Chiefs Council, said:**

“We are grateful to the vast majority of the public who are abiding by government guidance and the law in order to save lives, by staying at home and protecting the NHS.

“It is important to emphasise to our officers and staff that these new powers are there to support Health colleagues and are only ever likely to be used in exceptional circumstances.

“We have tried to anticipate the questions and concerns that our officers and staff will undoubtedly have on these powers to ensure they are used appropriately.”

**--ENDS—**

The guidance is available on the College of Policing website.