

# Chapter 4:

## **CS Incapacitant Spray**

# Chapter 4

## CS Spray

	Page No
Introduction	45 - 46
Effects and Aftercare	46 - 49
Records and Documents	49 - 50
Possession and Carriage of CS Incapacitant Spray	50 - 51
Training	51 - 52
Initial Delivery and Storage	52
Personal Issue and Storage	53 - 54
After Use - Retention and Storage	54
Device Disposal	55
Retention of Contaminated Clothing and other Items	55
Reporting Lost/Stolen Devices	55 - 56
Complaints	56
Decontamination of Vehicles/Buildings	56

## Chapter 4

# Procedures and Guidance for the Deployment and Use of CS Incapacitant Spray

### Introduction

- 4.1 Officers should bear in mind that misuse of CS Incapacitant Spray (CS Spray) may amount to an assault, a breach of Article 8 of the ECHR (Right to Private Life including physical integrity) or in extreme cases a breach of Article 2 and/or Article 3 of the ECHR (Right to Life and Prohibition of Inhuman or Degrading Treatment). This will necessitate an effective investigation of any such claim by either the Police Service or the PONI as appropriate. In any event, each use of CS Spray will be reviewed by the relevant District Commander.
- 4.2 Officers therefore must ensure that they comply with the PSNI Code of Ethics and the instructions contained in this chapter.
- 4.3 CS Spray is an irritant dispensed from a hand held aerosol canister in a liquid stream, which contains a 5% solution of CS in the solvent Methyl Isobutyl Ketone (MIBK). **Some of the solvents used in CS Spray are flammable. Officers should be aware that CS Spray should NOT be used where there are naked flames.**
- 4.4 CS Spray will be issued to all officers who have been trained in the Personal Safety Programme and will be worn as part of the normal patrol equipment. Plain-clothes officers will be also be trained and issued with CS Spray.
- 4.5 All officers should make themselves familiar with the contents of Appendix 'E', in relation to the dangers associated with the conditions known as positional asphyxia and excited delirium. These are two conditions identified as risks during arrest and restraint procedures, which must be considered following the use of CS Spray.
- 4.6 The use of or threat to use CS Spray is a use of force and therefore falls under Article 4, Use of Force in the Code of Ethics for the PSNI.
- 4.7 Whilst CS Spray is not intended for use in large-scale incidents of public disorder, its use may be appropriate against:
  - Those offering a level of violence, which cannot be appropriately dealt with by other levels of force.
  - Violent offenders, other than those armed with firearms or similar remote injury weapons, where failure to induce 'immediate' incapacitation would increase risks to all present.

- 4.8 CS Spray should not be seen as a replacement for other use of force options, rather it increases the options available to officers. Officers should not rely on CS to the exclusion of other control methods. On 5 August 2004 the Deputy Chief Constable stated, 'The introduction of CS Incapacitant Spray provides police with an additional less lethal option as part of a graduated response to any situation where police or a member of the public may be subjected to attack or violence.'
- 4.9 Police officers shall identify themselves as such, and shall give a clear warning of their intent to use CS, unless to do so would compromise the safety of any person, or a warning would be clearly inappropriate or pointless in the circumstances of the incident. The wording for such a warning should be – "I am a police officer. If you do not comply with my instructions I will use CS Spray."
- 4.10 The liquid stream is directional and has a range of up to 4 metres. Optimum accuracy however, will be achieved over a distance of 1.25 to 2 metres. The operating distance is the distance between the canister and the subject's eyes, not the distance between the officer and the subject. The spray should not be used:
- At a distance of less than one metre; or
  - In an enclosed area (e.g. a car); or
  - On a subject who is restrained or handcuffed.
  - As a crowd dispersal tactic (due to the possibility of other officers and innocent bystanders being affected),
- unless** the nature of the risk to the officer is such that this cannot be avoided. In all such cases, officers must be prepared to justify not only their use of the spray, but also their decision to use it in these circumstances.
- 4.11 Since the spray may cause incapacitation, its use against a subject armed with a firearm is not appropriate. Where a subject actually has hold of a firearm, the effects of the spray may cause them to fire indiscriminately. However, if the firearm is merely close at hand, the spray may be useful in preventing a subject actually arming themselves. Because of the extreme dangers, use in such circumstances should be carefully considered.
- 4.12 Because of the effects of the spray, the decision to use it on a person in charge or control of a motor vehicle must also be carefully considered.

## Effects and Aftercare

- 4.13 There are risks associated in using the spray on those who are vulnerable through age (including children), mental illness, alcohol and drugs. It should be noted that the spray may not be effective in certain circumstances, and may even exacerbate a violent situation. The spray may also interact with anti-psychotic medication. When dealing with mentally ill persons who may be prone to violence, consultation with relatives and health care professionals where possible, is recommended.

## PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management

- 4.14 CS particles, dissolved in a solvent (MIBK), are sprayed into the face of a person from a distance of up to four metres. Short bursts should be used bearing in mind that the effects of CS Spray may be delayed for up to 20 seconds. Upon impact, the solvent evaporates rapidly, leaving CS particles to incapacitate the subject. The effects of being sprayed are: pain and discomfort in the eyes; involuntary spasm of the eyelids; blinking/closure of the eyes; burning sensation on the skin; excess salivation; constriction of the chest; and sneezing, coughing and retching. The subject may also place their hands on their face and drop to their knees. Effects last on average for about 20 minutes. Further medical effects of CS Spray can be found in Form CS4, 'Useful Facts About CS' (available on PoliceNet).
- 4.15 Once the subject is controlled, the officer should give them reassurance that the effects of the spray are temporary. The subject should be instructed to breathe normally, as this will aid recovery and prevent hyperventilation. If possible, remove the subject to an uncontaminated area. Exposure to fresh air will permit CS particles to blow off the body, and normally result in recovery from significant symptoms in approximately 15 minutes.
- 4.16 Advise the subject not to rub their eyes or face, as this may exacerbate their condition. Although a subject should not be forced to open their eyes, they should be advised to do so as soon as possible. This will allow tears to flush the CS from the eyes. If reactions last beyond 15 minutes, the use of copious amounts of cold tap water may be used to flush remaining CS from the face. Attempting to irrigate the eyes at an earlier stage, when they are being forced closed by the effects of the spray, would be futile. Under no circumstances should warm water or so-called CS 'neutralising agents' be used. In all cases the decision to use water must be balanced with the need to preserve forensic evidence.
- 4.17 Persons sprayed with CS Spray should be asked if they wear contact lenses. As they may experience greater discomfort, they should be allowed to remove their lenses at the earliest opportunity. On no account should a police officer attempt to remove contact lenses from a subject. During the removal of contact lenses, police officers must ensure that the subject is in a safe location or position to prevent them attacking the police officer, or escaping.
- 4.18 Ensure that the control methods used, and the position that the subject is placed into, does not adversely affect their breathing. Subjects must not be left or transported in a prone position.
- 4.19 Officers are advised that it is preferable for a subject who has been exposed to CS Spray to be transported in a ventilated cellular van or transit, rather than in a police car. If there is no other option than to use a car, extra ventilation should be sought for example by opening the windows and/or using the internal ventilation system. Under no circumstances will persons contaminated with CS Spray be transported by helicopter.
- 4.20 If a detained person is exhibiting signs of severe distress, breathlessness or lapses of consciousness, they must be taken to hospital straight away. The provision of

## PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management

medical assistance must be given precedence over conveying the subject to the police station.

- 4.21 All members are reminded of their duty to ensure the well-being of prisoners in their custody and, to fully report the circumstances of a use of force to the custody sergeant at the earliest opportunity. In particular the physical condition and life signs of a detained person must always be carefully and continually monitored during restraint and transportation. This is particularly important where the subject is obese, or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- 4.22 A person who has been sprayed with CS Spray will be classified as 'injured'. It will be the responsibility of the custody officer to ensure that the circumstances of the use of CS Spray are recorded in the custody record. The following actions should be carried out:
- Check the condition of the prisoner – if necessary allow the prisoner to walk around outside under supervision. Consider the preservation of forensic evidence.
  - Arrange for an examination by a Health Care Professional (HCP)/Forensic Medical Officer (FMO) as soon as possible. The HCP/FMO should be provided with details of the force used, care given and any signs of injury.
  - If the prisoner has not recovered from the immediate effects after 15 minutes from the time of spraying, arrange for them to wash (under close supervision) with very large amounts of cold water from a normal water source. Specific irrigation of the eyes should only be undertaken by HCPs/FMOs or other trained personnel.
  - Non-evidential contaminated clothing can, with consent of the prisoner, be removed and placed in a sealed bag. Gloves should be worn when removing the outer clothing of a person sprayed with CS.
  - The prisoner should be kept apart from other prisoners and receive enhanced cell supervision, similar to that recommended for prisoners who are under the influence of drink or drugs.
  - At the earliest opportunity, the prisoner should be handed Form CS3 'Information Sheet for Persons Sprayed with CS Incapacitant Spray', (available on PoliceNet), informing them of the spray that has been used and the action to be taken if they suffer any additional problems.
  - Before a detained person, affected either directly or indirectly by CS, is required to provide evidential breath specimens on the Lion Intoxilyzer 6000, they must have been examined, or refused to be examined by an FMO. At least half an hour must have passed since they were initially exposed to the CS. If the person refuses to be examined by the FMO, this should be noted on the custody record. The FMO will determine that the detained person has recovered from the immediate effects of the CS, not whether they are capable

## PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management

of providing breath specimens. However, the FMO should be made aware that evidential breath specimens might be required. If the person is unable to provide two satisfactory breath specimens on the Intoxilyzer, this could be because of a medical reason. In this case, the provisions of Article 18(4)(a) of the Road Traffic (NI) Order, 1995, should be considered and the person should be required to provide a laboratory specimen (blood or urine) instead of breath.

- When a detained person is transferred to a prison, the custody officer should ensure that any contaminated clothing is bagged and identified as hazardous using 'Health Hazard' tape, and that the prison authorities are informed that the prisoner has been sprayed with CS.
- 4.23 FMOs/HCPs will be educated in the effects of CS Spray to allow them to deal with persons who have been sprayed. Form CS4 (available on PoliceNet), detailing effects will be supplied to FMOs/HCPs.
- 4.24 An information sheet will be issued to all officers who are trained in the use of CS Spray - Form CS5 'CS Incapacitant – "Information Sheet for Custody" (available on PoliceNet). Copies of this form will also be displayed in custody suites. Further information relating to aftercare and decontamination to be provided is contained in the CS training package.
- 4.25 In cases of serious public disorder, it may not be possible for officers to administer aftercare advice in person. Officers should consider using the vehicle tannoy system, if available, as a means of administering such advice and the facts recorded in the officer's notebook and duty statement, if applicable.
- 4.26 If an innocent bystander (or other person not arrested) is affected by CS spray during an incident, aftercare advice and form CS3 should be provided, where possible, by either the officer(s) using CS spray, or other police at the scene.

## Records and Documents

- 4.27 An officer drawing or discharging the device, or once drawn, subsequently points the device at any individual or group, must record this use and any warning given in their personal notebook. If a warning was not issued, the reasons for this should also be noted. The matter must also be brought to the attention of a supervisor as soon as possible after the device has been used (Article 4.3 of the Service Code of Ethics refers). The officer using the spray must complete an electronic Use of Force Monitoring Form. Each officer must complete a separate form should more than one officer use CS Spray in any single incident. The electronic Use of Force Form will indicate the supervisor to whom the matter was reported, who in turn will weigh the canister and update the CS Spray register (CS2). Any irregularities with the device should also be recorded.
- 4.28 Where police are faced with a threat from multiple aggressors, and CS Spray has been drawn to control the situation, but not used, the officer's subsequent report of a use of force shall contain an estimate of the number of members of the public involved, and if known to the officer, the identity of any person(s) who could

## PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management

reasonably have been expected to anticipate the threat of CS Spray being used against them. See also paragraph 4.38 below.

- 4.29 The recording of statistics is vital to ensure that the continued development of CS Spray is supported by accurate and current management information. This is particularly important where the spray is used and the person is unaffected or where the effects are unusually severe.
- 4.30 Supervisors must consider attending the location of where the CS spray is used to ensure proper scene management/reporting and that correct decontamination procedures are adopted. Attendance will be particularly important where CS has been discharged in or in the vicinity of commercial premises or public areas. Form CS6 "Information for owners and occupiers of premises where CS Spray has been used" (available on PoliceNet), has been developed to assist officers to this end. CS6 will be handed/delivered to the owners and/or occupiers of premises where CS Spray has been used, as soon as practicable after the incident.
- 4.31 Where officers suffer adverse or lasting side effects following the discharge of a CS Spray device, they may report the incident as an injury on duty.
- 4.32 Supervisors should offer officers involved FMO/HCP examination.

### Possession and carriage of CS Incapacitant Spray

- 4.33 By virtue of Article 45 of the Firearms (N.I.) Order 2004, CS Incapacitant Spray is a prohibited weapon. However the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has authorised police officers to be lawfully in possession of such a spray, when such possession is in connection with their duties.

### The possession, carriage and storage of CS Incapacitant Spray whilst off duty

- 4.34 Officers can have lawful possession of the spray whilst off duty provided that this is necessary for the purposes of police duty, for example, whilst on call or to facilitate duty away from their normal place of work. No cross border protocol exists that will allow the carriage or operational use of CS Spray in other force areas. Therefore, possession or carriage of CS Spray outside Northern Ireland is prohibited.

### Possession on board aircraft

- 4.35 CS Spray must not be taken on board an aircraft without the prior authority of the Air Loadmaster (Military Aircraft) or Civil Aviation Authority (Civil Flights).

### Possession in Prisons

- 4.36 In the event of police taking control of a prison, the senior police officer present will make the decision as to the carriage of CS Spray and this should be assessed as a tactical option that would be available elsewhere. When prisons are under the normal control of the prison authorities, police officers will not enter prison premises whilst in possession of CS Spray. Prior to their entry to prison

establishments, the CS Spray must be locked in the secure storage area at the entry point, or left in the safe custody of another officer.

### Carriage and use of CS Spray in Custody Suites

- 4.37 CS Spray should not be routinely carried within the confines of a custody suite. The use of CS Spray within the confines of a custody suite must only be in the most exceptional circumstances. CS Spray should not be used in an enclosed area or upon a subject who is restrained or handcuffed, unless the nature of the risk to the officer or other person is such that this cannot be avoided. If CS Spray is used within the confines of a custody suite, staff will provide aftercare for all persons affected by the irritant and ensure that a full account of the incident is recorded in the custody record of any affected prisoners. Where the affected persons include visitors to the custody suite, e.g. doctors or solicitors, a record must be kept of the identity of those persons.

### Carriage at public order events

- 4.38 Officers will carry their CS Spray whilst on duty and as part of their normal patrol equipment when on duty at public order situations. Such carriage is to provide additional protection to officers who may become isolated or otherwise vulnerable. It must be understood however that there are no group tactical options for CS Spray use in such situations and therefore the use of CS will be at the discretion of individual officers in accordance with the overriding principle of proportionality and necessity as set out above. Any use of CS at a public order situation may have a profound impact on crowd dynamics with implications for public safety and order. There is also the likelihood of widespread cross contamination, which has the potential to cause panic or even hysteria. The decision to use CS Spray in these circumstances must be capable of subsequent justification and the closest scrutiny at all levels. If used at a public order situation, the officer must inform their unit supervisor, and 'Silver' Command must be informed without delay.
- 4.39 CS Spray is not designed for use as a dispersal tactic, as it is not always effective. Innocent bystanders and other police officers are often affected. The natural reaction is for officers to put their hands to their faces increasing their vulnerability in crowd situations. It is vital to ensure CS Spray use does not undermine the public's confidence in the Police Service.

### Training

- 4.40 Training will reflect ACPO and Service standards and policies. Regional Officer Safety Trainers will be trained in the use of the sprays. They will then deliver training at Personal Safety Programme refresher training. All officers, including student officers, undertaking Personal Safety Programme training for the first time will be trained in CS at that time, either by COT staff or Regional Trainers.
- 4.41 Officers will receive annual refresher training in the use of CS when they attend Personal Safety Programme refresher training.

## PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management

- 4.42 All operational officers up to Inspector rank will receive training in the use of CS Spray. This will include comprehensive instruction in aftercare procedures. Officers above Inspector rank will be trained and issued with CS Spray where there is an operational requirement.
- 4.43 It must be remembered that CS Spray is only one of the range of options available to an officer dealing with violent or potentially violent people and should be used as part of the National Decision Model. Only those officers trained in other relevant aspects of Personal Safety Programme training will be issued with CS Spray.
- 4.44 It is essential that officers are aware of the physiological and psychological effects of CS. This may assist if they are inadvertently exposed to or cross-contaminated by CS during a confrontation. Within the training programme, an opportunity may be offered for officers to experience a general exposure to the spray. This will only be carried out under controlled conditions, consistent with ACPO and Service guidelines.

### Initial Delivery and Storage of CS Incapacitant Sprays

- 4.45 As a prohibited weapon the possession, storage and control of CS Spray is subject to Article 45 of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004. The arrangements for the safe storage of the CS Spray prior to personal issue will ultimately be the responsibility of the District Commander. District Commanders will appoint a CS Administration Officer to supervise the storage and supply of CS in each District. District Commanders will also have an audit of the storage and issue of CS Spray carried out on a regular basis.
- 4.46 The CS Spray Administrator will be responsible for controlling access to CS Spray canisters and the CS Spray register, and will keep a log of the people who access the stored canisters and register. District Commanders will ensure that whoever is appointed as the CS Spray Administrator is authorised by virtue of Art 78 of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004, has read and understood the directions contained in this chapter, and that they keep themselves apprised of any changes in procedure and guidance.
- 4.47 Estate Services and the Health and Safety Branch will arrange for the installation of cabinets at each District. They will also arrange for the display of Hazchem signs and compliance with relevant fire/safety regulations. The cabinets will be used for the storage of the initial supply and surplus sprays. The surplus supplies will be used as required for replacement issue to officers in that District. CS Sprays must be stored in an upright position. The sprays will be kept away from naked flames or sources of heat.
- 4.48 A Sergeant from each section or unit (the issuing officer) will carry out the initial issue of CS Sprays to officers. Replacement sprays will be similarly issued. The issuing officer will, at the time of issue complete Form CS2 'CS Aerosol Incapacitant – Issue Register' (available on PoliceNet). The issuing officer will have the entry of their personal issue of CS Spray countersigned by their Inspector.

## Personal Issue and Storage

- 4.49 Only those officers who have successfully completed the initial training course will be personally issued with CS Spray. When an officer is issued with CS Spray that police officer is responsible for its safekeeping and secure storage until such time as it has been discharged, is no longer required for operational use, or the device has passed its expiry date.
- 4.50 Each of the CS Incapacitant Sprays is individually numbered and a detailed record will be maintained in each District of those sprays in circulation. The issuing officer will record this number on Form CS2, against the name and Service number of the receiving officer.
- 4.51 The integrity of the devices is paramount and officers must always be in a position to account for the history of their device. In line with this, devices must not be shared or borrowed, unless under extreme operational conditions. A full record, in the form of a duty statement, must be made by the officer surrendering their CS Spray to another, setting out why and to whom, as soon as practicable after the event.
- 4.52 Officers transferring between Districts/Departments will take their issued device with them. This includes officers posted on completion of initial training. The HR Manager responsible for the new District/Department will ensure that Form CS7 (CS Spray Audit Procedure) is provided to the officer and fully completed. Form CS7 is available on PoliceNet. The CS Administrator at each location will ensure that relevant Form CS2 is completed, as applicable.
- 4.53 Supervising officers will inspect officers' issue spray to ensure the integrity of the device. This inspection will be made at the same time as the monthly firearms inspection. As part of the inspection, supervising officers will weigh individual canisters to ensure that the contents are the required weight. Digital scales will be supplied to Districts for this purpose. Any discrepancy will be enquired into, and a report submitted to the District Commander as to the findings. The supervisor will retain the affected spray and another spray will be issued to the officer. The supervisor will make a record of this. Device expiry must also be monitored. Further checks may be carried out at the discretion of the supervisor.
- 4.54 CS Administration Officers will check the contents of the central storage cabinet at least once a fortnight. They should also inspect the issue log to ensure that it is correctly maintained and up to date. A computerized spreadsheet of the CS Issue Register should also be maintained in addition to, and as a back-up to the paper copy, with access restricted to both.
- 4.55 Officers who have a secure locker facility will store their spray, when not in use, in that locker. If an officer does not have a secure locker, (e.g. a detective officer) then the officer will store the spray in an alternative individual secure storage facility for example, a locked drawer or cabinet.

- 4.56 If neither of these facilities exists, then immediate steps should be taken via local command to ensure that a necessary secure facility is provided.
- 4.57 Failure to keep accurate records about the issue of CS Sprays may lead to the compromising of the integrity of the device. Failure to keep records will also result in formal disciplinary proceedings.
- 4.58 The issuing officer is responsible for ensuring that Form CS2 is updated regarding the new issue of a spray.

### After Use – Retention and Storage

- 4.59 Once discharged, the CS Spray device should be replaced immediately. This will include accidental/unintentional use. The weight of the device will be recorded prior to packing and storage. It must be borne in mind of course that every incident is different and the amount of spray used will differ in each circumstance. As soon as practicable, all used devices should be placed inside a small plastic weapons tube, and sealed in a tamper evident bag. The canister serial number and date should be recorded on the outside of the bag. Where a spray has been discharged, and has become contaminated with any hazardous/noxious substance (e.g. blood), the tamper evident bag will be clearly marked with health hazard tape and a description of the contamination. The issuing officer will be responsible for packaging and subsequent storage. They will also ensure that an entry is made in the CS Issue/Return Register (CS2).
- 4.60 Where an arrested person has been sprayed, details of the circumstances will be entered on the custody record, including the name and station of the officer using CS Spray. The details of the device (i.e. serial number) will be recorded on the person's custody record, and the device stored at the station from where it is currently on issue. The device will be stored in a secure locker within the Special Property Store for a period of one year, whereupon it will be transported to a central storage facility at Seapark. The used device will be retained at this central facility for five years, longer if criminal or civil proceedings are ongoing or anticipated.
- 4.61 Where an officer has discharged the spray against a person, and that person has not been arrested, details of the device, including its weight, condition and serial number will be entered in the CS Issue/Return Register (CS2) of the station from where it is currently on issue. It will be sealed and stored as at paragraph 4.59 above. Where this person is arrested by that officer at a later time, and in relation to the same incident, it is their responsibility to ensure that the details of the device and its storage location are entered on the person's custody record.
- 4.62 Upon the accidental/unintentional discharge of the CS Spray, an officer of a higher rank than the person who discharged the CS will submit a report outlining the circumstances of the incident to the District Commander who will decide as to whether disciplinary procedures need to be implemented. Full consideration must be given to health and safety issues. Until the outcome of any investigation is known, the device should be recorded and stored as at paragraph 4.59 above.

## Device Disposal

4.63 Stored CS Sprays may be disposed of in the following circumstances:

- Accidental discharge – where there are no discipline implications involved.
- Defective device – where no further action is required.
- Damaged device – where there are no disciplinary implications in relation to damage.
- If the device is no longer required – e.g. officer retirement.
- Following retention for six years, and in the absence of notification of criminal or civil proceedings in relation to use of the device etc.
- Following loss/theft and recovery – after all relevant enquiries/actions have been completed and decisions made as to disciplinary action/criminal prosecution.
- Contaminated device – where a device has not been discharged and has become contaminated by any hazardous/noxious substance. In such cases, all sprays will be packaged in accordance with procedures for 'used' contaminated sprays at paragraph 4.59 above.

4.64 The prior authority of an officer not below the rank of Chief Inspector is required for all disposals. CS Administration Officers will liaise with stores (Seapark) to dispose of used/out of date canisters and to arrange for replacement canisters to be issued.

## Retention of Contaminated Clothing and other items

4.65 Where it is necessary to retain clothing or other items that have been contaminated with CS Incapacitant Spray, there remains a risk of cross contamination. These items should be sealed in a tamper evident bag or prisoner's property bag.

4.66 The officer sealing the item will also be responsible for ensuring that the bag is clearly marked with 'Health Hazard' tape, and clearly label it as 'CS Contaminated'.

## Reporting Lost/Stolen Devices

4.67 The theft or loss of CS Spray will be reported immediately to a supervising officer, who in turn will report the loss to the Duty Inspector as soon as possible. The Duty Inspector will, as soon as possible, circulate details Service-wide via the internal email system. They will then conduct a risk assessment on the circumstances of the loss/theft, and where they feel that the circumstances are such that the loss/theft should be circulated to the public, they will make contact with the Duty Press Officer to discuss the release of the loss/theft to the media, in order to alert the public to the dangers of the CS Spray canister should it be used incorrectly. The Duty Inspector will ensure that a written report is forwarded to the District

Commander, who will consult with Professional Standards Department on any disciplinary implications that may arise.

## **Complaints**

- 4.68 All instances whereby a complaint is made against a police officer concerning the use of CS Incapacitant Spray shall be reported to the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) in accordance with current Service instructions.

## **Decontamination of Vehicles/Buildings**

- 4.69 Normal ventilation should remove the effects of a spray in a room/vehicle in a short period of time. Doors and windows should be left open and air allowed to circulate until the area is clear.
- 4.70 In vehicles, the ventilation or air-conditioning system should be left on to further aid the clearance of the area. No chemical substances should be used to aid decontamination.
- 4.71 Heavily contaminated areas may require repeated washings with water and/or thorough vacuuming, dependent upon the nature of the surface.