

**SMITH, Hannah (C8653)**

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**From:** COPPINGER, Barry (C8513)  
**Sent:** 25 June 2020 13:26  
**To:** LEWIS, Richard (p2688)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Safe injecting facility

Thanks Richard, understand entirely, perhaps we can discuss further at our next 1:1.  
Regards  
Barry

**From:** LEWIS, Richard (p2688)  
**Sent:** 25 June 2020 12:49  
**To:** COPPINGER, Barry (C8513) <Barry.Coppinger@cleveland.pnn.police.uk>

[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Safe injecting facility

Good morning Barry

Thank you for the below.

Before expressing a view, I want to place on record my admiration for the passion and enthusiasm that [REDACTED] has for his work.

The issue regarding a 'safe injecting facility' is interesting but before providing a settled view, I would have some questions I'd want to pose.

1. My understanding is that these sites are currently outside of the law and as CC, I am unable to simply provide 'permission' for such a site; I have a duty to uphold the law. I would be interested in hearing more on the legal implications of such a move.
2. What evidence is being relied upon that this is an effective tactic in the fight against drugs (from a criminal justice and a public health perspective)?
3. Whilst this may be an effective tactic what is the overall strategy that sits above it?

I understand the time pressures involved in this and why it can be very attractive to be the 'first' but I feel that the evidence that sits behind this needs a proper treatment before a view can be expressed.

There are further issues for us here too which I know you're well sighted on; trust in Cleveland Police is low and there are real implications for the organisation if a decision was made to simply allow a cohort of individuals to use a facility to inject drugs without police intervention. A more mature organisation with a grip on the criminal justice element of drugs work may be in a position to play a fuller part than we are at this stage.

I am concerned about trust in our organisation being severely eroded at a time when we can ill afford such a thing. If we can address the questions above as a start, and see where that takes us.

Richard

**Richard Lewis**  
**Chief Constable**



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**From:** COPPINGER, Barry (C8513)

**Sent:** 23 June 2020 22:26

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

LEWIS, Richard (p2688) <[Richard.Lewis2@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Lewis2@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Safe injecting facility

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy to support/discuss with Force, who as you know are involved with HAT steering group through [REDACTED] copying in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] – hopefully [REDACTED] can discuss further and get further info from you, but I'm definitely on board, subject to further clarification etc.

Regards

Barry

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 23 June 2020 16:36

**To:** COPPINGER, Barry (C8513) <[Barry.Coppinger@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Barry.Coppinger@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Safe injecting facility

Hi

We have been approached by [REDACTED] on behalf of drug science [REDACTED]  
Both leading profs in substance use.

They are looking to fully fund a safe injecting facility as a research pilot for a set period of time eg 3 years somewhere in the U.K. and were sounding me out and the prospects of middlesbrough.

This is an amazing opportunity to again trail blaze as an area tackling drugs.

Several areas are interested and maybe ahead of us but our success with HAT has lead them to us.

I have had an initial discussion and one significant stumbling block is a memorandum of understanding to stop the police closing down to research.

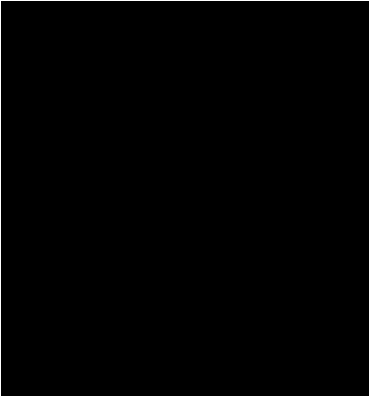
I wanted to see your thoughts and wondered about if a discussion with the chief was possible so I could reassure the pros this was a discussable issue.

I have sounded out [REDACTED] who expressed his support from the public health team aspect.

Would need to move fairly quickly as I know areas such Birmingham, wales and potentially leeds are I think being viewed has having potential.

What's your thoughts. Got legs or not?

Kind regards



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