App will record assaults on police to improve officer wellbeing

Published on 31 January 2022

Police officers will be able to record assaults through the app and access support

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An app collecting data about assaults on officers is being trialled by the City of London Police.

The National Police Assaults Data app forms part of Operation Hampshire and will be rolled out to all forces in England and Wales.

There were 36,969 assaults reported on police officers in England and Wales in the 2020 to 2021 financial year – an increase of more than 20% on the previous year.

The initiative is supported by the College of Policing, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the national police wellbeing service Oscar Kilo.

We need a way of gathering police assault data, at a detailed and consistent level.

In order for us to learn as an organisation and improve kit, equipment, training and policy, we need to really understand the scale and trends of what's happening to our colleagues.

We want to reduce assaults, lessen the impact of assaults and improve the wellbeing support around them. This is potentially game-changing for policing.

Chief Inspector Dave Brewster, Oscar Kilo and Metropolitan Police Service

The new app allows officers to record assaults, signposts supervisors to carry out welfare assessments. It will feed into national figures to support the Police Covenant and help tackle the problem.

The app is quick and simple to use and sits within Microsoft Office 365.

Operation Hampshire, led by PC Barry Jarvis, is a national project providing a comprehensive response to police assaults, incorporating the key themes of supervision, wellbeing, communication, investigation and criminal justice. It has been developed in response to a number of recommendations from the Officer and Staff Safety Review (OSSR), which was published in September 2020.

Read more: New app on officer assaults will 'trigger support' for victims.

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