

What is your position on banning 'Mosquito' and other such devices?

In Aberdeenshire, the Youth Council is opposed to the use of these devices and would like them to be banned. Concerns have also been raised locally regarding the use of Mosquito devices, both from members of the public and Council Officials. Following the concerns raised by the Children's Commissioner, Grampian Police advised that these units should be not used within the Grampian area. Aberdeenshire Council then determined that these units should not be used until a decision was taken nationally by the Scottish Government. This remains to be our position.

Would you agree that a device which would specifically target say ethnic minorities would be discriminatory and would not be permitted? What is then the difference with this device which targets young people?

A device that would specifically target ethnic minorities could be seen as discriminatory and is not something that would be supported in Aberdeenshire.

Who supports their continued use and who opposes?

As stated above, we do not currently endorse the use of these devices.

What consideration have you given to any adverse health impacts on people caused by these devices (e.g. to young children, autistic teenager, person with a digital hearing aid etc)?

We are conscious that there could be negative health impacts arising from the use of this device that would need to be explored further, were the machines to be deployed; but would reiterate that they are not currently being deployed in Aberdeenshire.

Does this device not simply move young people on from an area? It doesn't address the underlying problem of anti-social behaviour which might exist in that area and whether that is being caused by under 25 year olds.

It is accepted that when deployed, the device may simply disperse young people to another area and may not address the root cause(s) of the antisocial behaviour that was initially being displayed. However it is also accepted that by dispersing the young people, this would provide respite to the victims of any antisocial behaviour that was being displayed in the area (assuming that this was the reason for the deployment of the device).

Do you have any concerns about the use of such devices and whether they might constitute an offence of assault?

There are some concerns in relation to the use of Mosquito devices generally, in that they may unfairly target young people and could be an infringement of their civil liberties/human rights. There are no current concerns in Aberdeenshire, as the devices are not currently being used by Aberdeenshire Council or Grampian Police. It is possible however that these devices are still

being used locally by private individuals / groups / businesses and their use is currently unregulated, which would give cause for concern.

It would not be appropriate to comment on whether or not the use of Mosquito devices would constitute an offence of assault.

What powers did you use to ban the use of Mosquito devices?

No policy decision has been taken by Aberdeenshire Council in relation to the use of Mosquito devices in our area. However, it is accepted that concerns do exist regarding their use, such as those expressed by the Children's Commissioner and Grampian Police; and as a result, these devices are not currently being used by Aberdeenshire Council. There is however nothing at present to stop private individuals, groups or businesses from purchasing and using these devices in our area, therefore a decision from the Scottish Government regarding their use would be welcomed.