



Protective Marking	NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
Publication Scheme Y/N	Y
Title	Policy: Crime screening and secondary investigation within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
Version	1
Summary	This policy provides a corporate standard of crime screening and clear guidance to MPS personnel.
Branch / OCU	Territorial Policing Crime Operations Strategic Committee
Review date	October 2007

Policy: Crime Screening and Secondary Investigation within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

Introduction

This Policy supersedes Special Notice 19/02, which is now cancelled.

All crimes will be subject to a thorough primary investigation, whether at the scene or over the telephone. Most investigations will be completed at this stage but some will require further secondary investigation. In order to prioritise the deployment of limited secondary investigative resources decisions need to be made as to what crimes will be further investigated. Such decisions are termed 'Crime Screening' and will be determined by whether the crimes require mandatory secondary investigations because of their serious nature or are detectable (solvable). These decisions take into account the need to safeguard public reassurance, to reduce the fear of crime and to secure potential detections.

Application

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant MPS policy and associated procedures. However, this policy applies in particular to personnel employed in Crime Management Units (CMU's).

This policy will take immediate effect.

Purpose

The policy aims to ensure that resources are efficiently and effectively deployed for the investigation of crime.

The policy also ensures that crimes are filtered so that resources will only be deployed to further investigate those crimes that are potentially detectable and/or are of a serious nature.

Scope

This policy applies to all crimes recorded under the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS).

However, it has no effect on the current practices involving the recording of transferred crimes between borough operational command units or with the transfer of investigations to other internal departments, e.g., Specialist Crime Directorate.

Policy Statement

The MPS will improve the quality of criminal investigations by focusing secondary investigative resources upon serious offences and those with a realistic prospect of being detected.

Serious crimes will automatically receive secondary investigation. However, the screening decision regarding all other crimes will be determined according to whether they are detectable. All detectable crimes will receive secondary investigation as appropriate unless a Borough Crime Manager or nominated deputy considers that exceptional circumstances exist. That is where the level of resources deployed would clearly be totally disproportionate to the potential outcome. In such circumstances it may be appropriate to give advice relating to civil remedies.

Benefits

This policy seeks to establish corporacy, integrity and to provide clear guidance for officers and police staff of the requirements for the screening of crimes. Also, as a result of all detectable crimes receiving secondary investigation, subject to the existence of exceptional circumstances, then there is a potential for realising a greater number of detections.

Responsibilities

<i>Ownership of Policy:</i>	TP Crime Operations Strategic Committee.
<i>Implementing Policy:</i>	Borough Commanders & Heads of Support OCU's.
<i>Reviewing Policy:</i>	TP Crime Policy Unit & TP Crime Operations Strategic Committee.