



Protective Marking	NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
Publication Scheme Y/N	Y
Title	Policy on Minimum standards for the primary investigation of crime
Version	1
Summary	This policy sets minimum requirements and establishes a standard approach across the Metropolitan Police Service to crime investigation and recording, with the aim of enhancing the quality of investigations and facilitating better supervision.
Branch / OCU	Territorial Policing Crime Operations Strategic Committee
Date created	11 August 2004
Review date	August 2007

Policy: Minimum standards for the primary investigation of crime.

Introduction

This policy amends and updates previous policy concerning 'minimum standards for the primary investigation of crime' as contained in Police Notice 34/02, item 8. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) investigates all allegations of crime and is committed to providing a professional service. Increasing demand means that investigative resources need to be prioritised and deployed effectively and efficiently. Most crimes, therefore, will not be subject to a secondary investigation but will be dealt with completely by the primary investigation whether at the scene or over the telephone. It is therefore vital that all crimes are actively investigated in the first instance to a good professional standard. Although each crime and its circumstances are unique, a number of initial considerations, common to most crime investigations, have been identified. These have been developed into a set of generic minimum standards that should be adhered to so as to ensure a comprehensive primary investigation and the best prospect of detecting the offender.

Application

The policy takes effect immediately on publication.

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the MPA must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant MPS policy.

However, this policy applies in particular to Borough officers and staff in the following roles:

- Front Line Police Officers and Police Staff
- Investigating Officers
- Telephone Investigation Bureau staff
- Supervising Officers
- Crime Management Unit staff
- Crime Managers

Purpose

To set minimum requirements and establish a standard approach across the MPS to crime investigation and recording with the aim of enhancing the quality of investigations and facilitating better supervision. This should provide the best prospect of detecting the offender and meeting the needs of the victim.

Scope

The policy will only apply to generic minimum standards expected of a primary investigation as the first police response to an allegation of crime. It does not cover every possible action that could be carried out for specific crime types and other investigative actions must still be considered as appropriate. Secondary investigations are not covered by this policy.

Policy Statement

The MPS will comply with minimum standards for the primary investigation of all crime reported. The minimum standards constitute six key areas of investigation as shown below:

- Immediate action
- Scene

- Forensics
- Victims/Witnesses
- Suspects
- Other evidence

These standards are detailed in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Under each of the above headings there are a number of 'expected actions', which the investigating officer must consider, carry out if appropriate and record details on the Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS).

Benefits

- Quality of investigations raised
- Better quality of service to victims and witnesses
- More suspects detected
- A standardised approach across the MPS for crime investigation and recording
- Improved disclosure of information
- Supervision of investigations made easier

Responsibilities

Ownership – Territorial Policing Crime Operations Strategic Committee

Implementing – OCU Commanders

Reviewing – Territorial Policing Crime Policy Unit