



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme	
Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Yes
Title	Child Rescue Alert Standard Operating Procedures
Version	1
Summary	Child Rescue Alert (CRA) is a partnership between the police, the media and the public that seeks the assistance of the public where a child has been abducted and it is feared that they may be at risk of serious harm.
(B)OCU or Unit, Directorate	SCD1
Author	
Review Date	August 2018
Date Issued	August 2012



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Text highlighted in blue must not be changed

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Equality Impact Assessment Standard Operating Procedure/Guidance **must** be used when completing this form:

http://intranet.aware.mps/Corporate/Policy/Territorial_Policing/SOP/Equality_Impact_Assessment_SOPs.htm

Protective Marking:	Not Protectively Marked	Publication	Yes		
Title:	Child Rescue Alert Standard Operating Procedures				
Branch / OCU:	SCD1				
Date Created	August 2012	Review Date:	August 2016	Version:	1
Author:	DS Paul Murray				

Person completing EIA: DS Paul Murray		
Signed: _____	Date: _____	
Person supervising EIA: DI Karen Mumby		
Signed: _____	Date: _____	
Quality Assurance approval:		
Name: _____	Unit _____	Date _____

Decision Making		
Decision Maker:		
Name: _____	Rank or Grade: _____	
What is the decision?		
Reject the proposal	Yes ☐	No ☐
Implement the proposal	Yes ☐	No ☐
Produce an alternate proposal (if so, a new impact assessment must be completed)	Yes ☐	No ☐
SMT / (B)OCU/Management Board endorsing decision		

Name:

Rank or Grade:

1. Aims and Purpose of Proposal – see step 1 of the guidance

Child Rescue Alert (CRA) is a partnership between the police, the media and the public that seeks the assistance of the public where a child has been abducted and it is feared that they may be at risk of serious harm. The aim is to quickly engage the entire community via media (TV, and radio) in the search for the child, offender or any specified vehicle through reports of sightings to the police.

It is a unique scheme whereby police have a pre-agreement with broadcasters that they will send out urgent information to the public to help recover an abducted child. The intention of activating Child Rescue Alert is to recover the child unharmed. The key aim is to quickly recover a child at serious risk of harm. The child's safety is paramount and arrest of the offender is an ancillary benefit. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) highlight the various roles of the relevant departments within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and detail the procedures to be adopted to enable the launch of a "Child Rescue Alert".

2. Examination of Available Information – see step 2 of the guidance

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has produced a draft document advising all Police Constabularies in the UK of the processes involved in launching a Child Rescue Alert. This document has been the basis of the references made in the proposed MPS Standard Operating Procedures.

The systems associated with National Mutual Aid Telephony (NMAT2) and the systems set in place around the Management of Information using MIRweb on Home Office Large Major Enquiries (HOLMES2) have been tested to ensure their effectiveness.

The MPS has assisted other Constabularies who have hosted exercises and has now run two exercises acting as "Host Force". To be in a position to "host" a live CRA situation, the MPS needs to introduce specific procedures to enable the CRA to be activated. The SOPS now in place detail the agreed roles and responsibilities of all parties concerned.

While there is an obvious and urgent need to recover the child, it is important to give due consideration to the effect that such a high profile media alert will have and ensuring that the police are properly prepared to receive and investigate a high volume of calls. They must also be in a position to respond to and maximise the investigative opportunities arising from those calls. The SOPS set out how the MPS will deal with these issues.

Consultation with other police Constabularies as to how they would launch a CRA have been undertaken and it is clear that those processes are not compatible with the working practices of the MPS which requires clarity around its more complex working practices. Efforts to streamline the process have been made and two "exercises" have been carried out to date to test the systems and procedures put in place.

3. Screening Process for relevance to Diversity and Equality issues – see step 3 of guidance

Does this proposal have any relevance to:					
a)	Age	Yes	☒	No	☐
b)	Disability	Yes	☒	No	☐
c)	Gender	Yes	☐	No	☒
d)	Gender Reassignment	Yes	☐	No	☒
e)	Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)	Yes	☐	No	☐
f)	Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes	☐	No	☒
g)	Race	Yes	☒	No	☐
h)	Religion or Belief	Yes	☐	No	☒
i)	Sexual Orientation	Yes	☐	No	☒
j)	Other Issues	Yes	☒	No	☐

4. From the answers supplied, you must decide if the proposal impacts upon diversity or equality issues. If yes, a full impact assessment is required.					
Full Impact Assessment Required?	Yes	☒	No	☐	

5. Consultation / Involvement – see step 5 of the guidance
Who was consulted?
National Policing Improvement Agency Serious Organised Crime Agency Anti- Kidnap and Extortion Unit Specialist Crime Directorate 1. Specialist Crime Directorate 5. Specialist Crime Directorate 7. Specialist Crime Directorate 8. Specialist Crime Directorate 26. Police National Computer (PNC) Bureau Specialist Crime Directorate Reserve Desk Specialist Crime Directorate HOLMES support Specialist Crime Operations MET Intelligence Bureau. Casualty Bureau Department of Information Secure Services and Service Delivery Territorial Policing Operation Compass Directorate of Public Affairs Central Communications Command Diversity and Citizen Focus Directorate Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) West Yorkshire Constabulary Hertfordshire Constabulary Kent Constabulary Surrey Constabulary North Wales Constabulary Northants Constabulary Greater Manchester Police Lincolnshire Constabulary Sussex Constabulary Staffordshire Constabulary

West Mercia Constabulary Surrey Constabulary Warwickshire Constabulary Gloucestershire Constabulary Cambridgeshire Constabulary Wiltshire Constabulary Fife Constabulary Missing Persons Bureau
Date and method of consultation
The consultation period took place between July 2010 and July 2011. Meetings were held face to face with some of the above mentioned departments, followed by more face to face meetings with the others. These meetings took place every few months. Telephone contact was had with several of the departments and all have been in contact re one aspect of the proposals or more via E-MAIL
Where are the consultation records stored?
OG11/11/28 Policy File re Child Rescue Alert Standard Operating Procedures.
Give a brief summary of the results of the consultation / involvement? How have these affected the proposal?
The consultation process has resulted in agreements being set in place as to the roles and responsibilities of those involved in launching a Child Rescue Alert. The necessity to involve multi-department deployment and resources to ensure an effective response has been highlighted. Live exercises have been run and have highlighted some of the difficulties in coordinating a multi department response. Lessons learnt from those exercises have ensured the process has been streamlined, for example agreements on the wording to be used on various forms being sent to different departments and other Constabularies are now consistent and uniform. Roles previously attributed to other departments have been re distributed.
6. Full Impact Assessment – see step 6 of the guidance Explain the potential impact (whether intended or unintended, positive or negative) of the proposal on individuals or groups on account of:
Age. The legislation dictates that this policy is only relevant to children under the age of 18 years. An age limit is set to comply with the majority of legal definitions of a child and to give a common standard. This applies to the whole of the United Kingdom and is in line with the European definition. It is accepted that on some occasions it may not be possible to confirm the exact age of the victim, in which case the individual circumstances of the case will be subject to the judgement of the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), and Gold Commander. For the purposes of CRA, the definition of a child as any person under the age of 18 will apply throughout the UK (including Scotland, where a child is otherwise a person under 16) in line with the European definition.
Disability.
Need to consider textphone for the deaf or hard of hearing, a facility which is currently available within the MPS Casualty Bureau.

Gender .
N/A
Gender Reassignment
N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)
N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity
N/A
Race
The purpose of launching a CRA is to gain the assistance of the general public and any appeal would be launched in English, however if the appeal was to be addressed to a specific section of the community, it may be possible to broadcast this (on radio) in both English and a different language. Any member of the public contacting police to give information would have access to language line, if required.
Religion and Belief.
N/A
Sexual Orientation.
N/A
Other Issues.
Need to consider the use of 0300 number - This will carry a charge to mobile telephone users who may not realise they are being charged for the call. In releasing the number to the public, the fact that charges apply will need to be highlighted. The downside is that the charge may deter some callers from making the call.

7. Monitoring – see step 7 of the guidance
a) How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored and by whom?
The protected characteristics will be monitored annually by SCD1
b) How will the results of monitoring be used to develop this proposal and its practices?
This is a new policy , if any disproportionality is identified through monitoring then the SOPs will be amended accordingly
c) What is the timetable for monitoring, with dates?
Monitoring will be annually and a review will be conducted in 3 years

8. Public Availability of reports / result – see step 8 of guidance
What are the arrangements of publishing, where and by whom?
SCD will publish the Equality Impact Assessment via the MPS Publication Scheme.