



<b>Protective Marking</b>	Not Protectively Marked
<b>Publication Scheme Y/N</b>	Y
<b>Title</b>	Gypsy & Traveller Policy
<b>Version</b>	1A
<b>Summary</b>	This policy is intended to improve the levels of trust and confidence felt by Gypsies and Travellers
<b>Branch / OCU</b>	DCC4(4) Diversity Directorate
<b>Review date</b>	September 2007

## Gypsy and Traveller Policy

### Introduction

This policy replaces previous documents that referred directly to Gypsies and Travellers. It cancels or incorporates the following MPS notices:

**Special Notice 11/01**  
**Notice 08/03**  
**Notice 11/04**

**Notice 39/01**  
**Notice 11/03**

It acknowledges the minority ethnic status of Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers, commits the MPs to a policy of engagement and consultation with all concerned parties.

### Application

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 policies and associated procedures. This policy however applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles all of whom have responsibilities for specific actions detailed within the SOPs:

- Control room staff and supervisors.
- Front line and CSU supervisors/officers.
- Duty officers.
- Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officers.
- Borough Commanders.
- Chief Inspectors (who will chair decision making groups).

**NB.** This list is not intended to be exhaustive

The policy will take effect from the date of publication of this document

### Purpose

This policy is intended to improve the levels of trust and confidence felt by Gypsies and Travellers in the willingness and ability of the MPS to:

- Respond fairly and openly to incidents of unauthorised encampment
- Effectively identify, record and investigate hate crime directed against Gypsies and Travellers
- Engage with Gypsies and Travellers and their representative groups in order to ensure they are heard when decisions about the way London is policed are made.
- Effectively respond to the issues raised by Gypsies and Travellers or their representative groups.

In doing so the MPS acknowledges and seek to positively respond to its responsibilities under the Race Relations Act as amended, Human Rights Act and other associated legislation.

### Scope

This document provides an overarching policy that must be adhered to by BCUs when dealing with Gypsies and Travellers. It does **not** seek to limit the ways in which BCUs interact locally with Gypsies and Travellers, their wider communities or develop local policies. Such local agreements are encouraged as good practice

provided the policies and SOP's contained in this document are included unaltered in any agreement or local protocols made.

### **Policy Statement**

The Metropolitan Police Service acknowledges the status and rights of Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers as distinct ethnic groups, their unique and legitimate lifestyle together with our duty under the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended (RRAA) to positively promote good community race relations.

The terms Gypsy or Traveller should be understood to mean these groups although this document may be applied to any group of people who have a travelling lifestyle.

It affirms that like the settled community Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and other Travellers are entitled to a life free from the fear of crime, harassment and intimidation. Accordingly the MPS will:

- Consult Gypsies and Travellers and/or the groups who represent their interests as well as affected members of the settled community and/or their representatives when making decisions that impact on them and their way of life. The MPS will actively consider and respond to the issues raised.
- Proactively respond to allegations of harassment, intimidation and hate crime directed against Gypsies and Travellers.
- Be demonstrably fair, open, transparent and accountable in all dealings with Gypsies and Travellers.

### **Benefits**

This policy will benefit the MPS in a number of ways:

- It will begin the process of improving the trust and confidence of Gypsies and Travellers in the MPS addresses their issues by involving them in the decision making processes.
- It will potentially reduce the costs incurred by the MPS in policing unauthorised encampments.
- It introduces a consistency of policy into Gypsy and Traveller issues.
- It will improve the ability of the MPS to assess and respond to Gypsy and Traveller issues and those of the settled community.

### **Responsibilities**

This policy is owned by the Diversity Strategic Committee.

The Strategic Relationships Team of the Diversity Directorate, DCC4(4), has responsibility for the development, implementation and review of this policy.

### **Associated documents and Policies**

The following SOP's are associated with this policy:

Gypsy and Traveller Matters, MPS Policy on Engagement with Travelling People

The SOPs include the following:

- Unauthorised encampments – Decision making process
- Removal process
- Leniency agreements
- Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers – Roles and responsibilities

- Hate Crime – flagging of crimes against Gypsies and Travellers