



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme	
Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Yes
Title	Investigative Interview Policy
Version	3.0
Summary	An over-arching policy in relation to Investigative Interviewing to enable specific policy and guidance to be accessible from one place.
(B)OCU or Unit, Directorate	Crime Academy / Learning and Development
Author	
Review Date	October 2023
Date Issued	16/10/2019

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Branch / OCU:	Crime Academy / Learning and Development				
Date created:	16/10/2019	Review date:	October 2023	Version:	3.0
Author:	DC Craig Thomas P204243 / DCI Annette Clarke P009629				

Application

When? – This Policy applies with immediate effect.

Who? – All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) or the Commissioner must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) policy and associated procedures.

This policy will apply to officers and staff in the following roles:

- Police officers and police staff who conduct investigative interviews
- First line managers of such officers
- Police officers or police staff who assess interviews
- Police officers and police staff who design and deliver training in respect of criminal investigations and investigative interviewing
- Criminal Justice Units

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive)

What? – All interviews conducted by police with victims, witnesses or suspects are termed 'investigative interviews'. Investigative interviewing is a non-coercive approach using open questions to improve the flow of communication and information. The information gathered in interviews is tested against available facts. Conducting investigative interviews is a crucial element of the process of investigation.

An investigative interview for the purpose of this policy is defined as following:

- Obtaining an account from a victim or witness in connection with an offence or incident

- The questioning of a person regarding that person's involvement or suspected involvement in a criminal offence which must be carried out under caution subject to a Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Policy Principles

The policy principals are:

- Outline key interviewing skills and techniques that will ensure every interview is carried out professionally and ethically, ensuring procedural integrity
- Deliver a quality approach to interviewing suspects, victims and witnesses in a fair without prejudice approach, which is accurate and reliable.

Purpose and Benefits

This policy will adhere to Authorised Professional Practice (APP) as defined by the College of Policing and as such, its contents reflect both National and Local procedure. This Policy and its associated procedures are required to develop and maintain the valuable resource of a skilled interviewer and ensure interviews are conducted professionally and ethically.

This Policy instructs suitably trained officers to conduct interviews using techniques that will deliver the best outcome for investigations, the prosecution and for victims and witnesses.

Measurable benefits of this policy include directing an investigation and gathering relevant material leading to a prosecution or early release of an innocent person. Quality interviews in supporting the prosecution case is likely to save time, money and resources and build public confidence in the police service, particularly with victims and witnesses of crimes who come into direct contact with the police.

Health and Safety Impact Statement

This policy and associated toolkit have been developed with appropriate consultation with the MPS Safety and Health Risk Management Team [SHRMT] (and other agencies as appropriate) and it would appear that there is no significant negative impact on health and safety in the MPS.

The Investigative Interviewing department will continue to work with the SHRMT to ensure that this policy remains fit for purpose and that any organisational learning arising from the implementation of this policy is incorporated within an amended version of this policy.

Associated Documents and Policies

The following non-exhaustive list of National Police Chief Constable position papers, legal provisions and MPS policies inform this policy:

- [MOJ \(2011\) Achieving Best Evidence: Guidance on Interviewing Victims and Witnesses, and Guidance on Using Special Measures](#)

- [NPCC Investigative Interview Strategy 2009](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#)
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Codes of Practice – specifically Code C, E and F
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA) [section 36](#) and [section 37](#)
- [Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999](#) (YJCE)
- Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 s34
- Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005: Part 2 s 71-75
- MPS Mental Health Policy
- MPS Domestic Abuse Policy
- MPS Child Abuse Policy
- MPS Safeguarding Children Policy
- MPS Victims' Code of Practice Policy
- MPS Rape and Serious Assault Policy

Notices to be Cancelled / Amended

All relevant notices are reflected within this Policy.

Equality Impact Assessment

Policies are developed and reviewed using a consultative approach involving relevant internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, developers must consider what action needs to be taken to help overcome or minimise any disadvantages that people who share a protected characteristic will experience in compliance with the Equality Act 2010. Finally, the impact of the policy will be monitored to identify any emerging issues, learning and benefits post-delivery of the policy. The table below summarises the outcomes of these steps:

Research and consultation	
Review of research	The College of Policing APP is referenced throughout this policy and learning and evidence from other sources such as Kevin Smith (NCA) and Rapport Based Interviewing – Lawrence Alison (Liverpool University) have been used to build a rich and evidence based policing policy.
Internal consultation	The following were consulted in the development of this toolkit: Directorate of Legal Services, Finance, Health and Safety, Information Assurance and a range of end users particularly interviewers who will be using this policy.
External Consultation	External consultation was carried out with National Crime Agency (NCA) and Counter-Terrorism (NCTPHQ).
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act 2010)	
Summary of Equality Impact Assessment	MPS personnel are instructed to recognise the protected characteristic/s of all victim / witness / suspects (as defined by Equality Act 2010) and treat them according to their needs, including administering Special Measures where necessary to help make sure interviews and investigations are successful, both in terms of positive experience for the individual and positive outcomes.
Age	This policy classes anyone under the ages of 18 as a child or young person - they will be treated as vulnerable by virtue of their age, following definitions and amendments by Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 and the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (which changes this from persons under 17 to under 18). The policy places importance on providing special measures for children or young people during the criminal justice process. This intervention is aimed at providing further support and protection when giving evidence at court.
Deaf/ disability	This policy relates directly to witnesses who are vulnerable by definition under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, by virtue of a physical or mental disability or disorder. The Policy supports efforts to ensure those with a disability are given equal treatment accessing and navigating through the criminal justice system including special measures. This policy is complemented by the Voluntary Attendance Policy, which instructs officers, where appropriate, to conduct interviews at a location to suit the specific needs of the individual.

Gender reassignment	This policy provides officers with more information in relation to interviewing Trans victims, witnesses and suspects to ensure any needs are immediately recognised and addressed, where possible, and apply correct gender pronouns to ensure individuals remain engaged throughout investigations.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Mothers showing signs of vulnerability will be provided special measures, should they be required for successful interviews and outcomes of investigations.
Race	Officers are instructed to contact language services should translation services be required to conduct interviews.
Religion or belief	Officers are advised to be mindful of religious practices and beliefs when carrying out interviews for example, if a victim or suspect is fasting what actions need to be taken.
Sex	This policy will have no positive or negative impact on a person's sex.
Sexual Orientation	This policy will have no positive or negative impact on a person's sexual orientation.
Other issues for example: Low income groups, single parents, rough sleepers	This policy instructs officers and staff to take note of any specific issues and needs of any individual being interviewed who is either homeless and / or a sex worker and signpost them to services for further assistance, should this be required.
Monitoring	
12 month implementation plan	The Investigative Interview Working Group will monitor compliance of this policy and to ensure the contents remain current and in line with any legislative changes. Any feedback will be cascaded through the working group Single Point of Contacts, who will also monitor within their area of business any reoccurring themes, which may have an impact on BAU. There will also be continued consultation with external subject matter experts and peer-to-peer reviews. Additionally, Voluntary Attendance monitored through mandatory completion of Form VA1. And Special Measures, Section 28 – compliance monitored through MG3 completion.