



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PUBLICATION SCHEME
Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Yes
Title	Stray Horses and Greenyards Policy Toolkit
Version	2.0
Summary	This document outlines how the MPS will deal with all Stray Horses and outlines the GREENYARD procedure.
(B)OCU or Unit, Directorate	MO7 Mounted Branch
Author	
Review Date	December 2023
Date Issued	December 2019



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:

Protective Marking:	Not Protectively Marked	Publication	Yes		
Title:	Stray Horses and Greenyards Policy Toolkit				
Branch / OCU:	MO7 Mounted Branch				
Date Created	December 2019	Review Date:	Dec 2023	Version:	2
Author:	PS Webster/Insp Rooke				

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

The aim of this Policy Toolkit is to provide uniformity across the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in how we deal with stray horses and other equine type animals and ensure officers dealing are given adequate guidance.

Alternative Greenyard providers and the concept of Mounted Branch taking responsibility for collection and housing of stray horses have been examined, with a view to minimising travelling time and therefore costs. If mounted branch took over responsibility for call out procedures the timing would be at least the same, if not more due to recall to duty costs for officers or staff. The most cost effective option is that of having an independent Greenyard provider on a call out basis.

There would be additional costs in relation to potential damage to operational horse boxes - having a follow-on effect on mounted branch operational capacity where they are committed to travelling by horse box. Linked into this are contamination issues after travelling the stray horses, as the box would have to be sterilized before mounted branch could use it. Horse boxes are in high demand, and with a small fleet, it would impact heavily on the resources of the mounted branch. Contamination with stabling was also considered - strangles, and worming were the primary concerns. Horses would have to be treated for the conditions which would add to the stabling costs and overall costs to the initial borough. Horses are not able to be turned out in MPS fields as using MPS fields will preclude them being used for MPS horses in excess of a year to prevent any contamination.

The Policy is written to ensure that officers dealing with stray horses found on the public highway or insecure property have a clear procedure to follow at the same time as undertaking that no particular group is targeted or . It is written to provide detailed guidance for each role carried out in relation to dealing with stray horses – first officer on scene, duty officer, officer in the case (OIC).

This policy may have a higher impact on the Traveller community who will further be supported in the prompt return of their animals, but those not complying with the law will

face prosecution. This is to deter repeat offending and thereby reduce cost to the MPS. Additions have been made to the policy in terms of utilising the GLTO officers to deliver education to their local travelling communities on their BCU's to ensure that they are aware of the policy and their own responsibilities if one of their horses is taken in under the Greenyard scheme.

Cost to the MPS will be reduced in respect of time spent by response officers dealing with stray horses. It will also decrease the risk to the public by horses repeatedly straying onto the public highway.

Several groups of officers and persons will have responsibilities towards this policy:

- Borough Command Unit (BCU) commanders in ensuring the policy is adhered to
- Finance departments for individual BCUs
- Duty officers for dealing with each incident
- BCU SPOC
- MO7(3) Mounted Branch
- Initial responding officers dealing with the stray horses at the scene.
- Gypsy & Traveller Liaison officers (GTLOs)
- Local Wildlife officers.

Overall the proposal should reduce resource-led time dealing with the incident, maximising officer time on the street and public accountability in this time.

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

The previous policy aimed to reduce costs dramatically to the MPS by using a new Greenyard contactor who would assume legal ownership after the 21 days Torts [Interference with Goods] Act 1977 was put into action. Since the policy was first in place the contractor has changed over. Unfortunately this contractor no longer provides this service for the MPS which has increased the costs to individual BCU's again. BCU's were then open to much large ranging costs as it took up to several months on occasion to re home the horses. A costing system is being trialed for a 12 month period dating from when this policy is reviewed. This will ensure a capped banding cost system to BCU's and a transfer of ownership after a 21 day period back to the Greenyard provider. These costs will initially appear higher, but over a lengthy period will keep the costs to a minimum.

The purpose of the policy is to bring together several very important pieces of information to assist officers at scene and owners of stray horses, and to formalise them.

Legal documentation referenced as follows:

- Section 155 of the Highways Act 1980
- Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980
- Transfer of possessory title - Torts [Interference with Goods] Act 1977
- Sections 24 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- TRADING STANDARDS OFFENCES INCLUDING:
 - Owning a horse without a valid passport
 - Travelling horses for sale in inadequate conditions

- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Human Rights Act 1998 articles 7/9/10 and 14.
- MPS Vision, Values, Standards and Behaviours.

The Policy ensures all parties linked with any stray horse issues are dealt with fairly and equally.

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	☐
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5. Consultation / Involvement – see step 5 of the guidance

Who was consulted? :

MPS GTLO
BCU commanders
Duty Officers
Response Team Officers
Policy unit
Central Command Complex (CCC)
Department of Legal Services (DLS)
SCO22 Health and safety advisor.
Greenyard
BHS

Date and method of consultation:

Dec 2018 – April 2019 :- Telephone and email conversations, face to face meetings.

Where are the consultation records stored?

File no: OG11/19/1

Give a brief summary of the results of the consultation / involvement? How have these affected the proposal? The consultation process has been extensive. Numerous different units have been contacted and liaised with at length. The consultation has developed the policy into the shape it has taken. Response team officers and duty officers have been consulted to ensure the policy is sufficient to guide individuals carrying out the roles specified even if they have not done so previously. CCC has been consulted in relation to ensuring the information is available to CCC operators to enable them to support BCU officers in carrying out their roles appropriately and contacting the Greenyards when authorised by the duty officer. GTLOs are happy to assist officers, although their input is minimal in following the policy by assisting in making enquiries with the Travelling communities. This process should continue and communication with GTLOs be supported by the policy toolkit to ensure maximum communication with the travelling community both with regards to tracing owners and making them aware of the new structure and prosecution of offenders. The Greenyard supplier have been consulted in relation to the extent of the services they are able to provide and how best to contact them to ensure the best service possible is provided to the MPS. This is not a role that is popular and therefore there is currently only one provider available to approach. The DLS has been consulted in particular in relation to whether this policy is still monetarily within the public interest to maintain. The cost offset against the potential risk involved if a horse were to stray on the highway and the potential to cause an accident is enormous. It falls within the policing core responsibilities to protect life and property. Police will attend to stray horse incidents and deal according to the policy. MPS health and safety have contributed their advice on the rolling and dynamic risk assessment to ensure maximum safety to the public, the officers and the animal. .
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 There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.
Disability There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.
Gender: There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.
Gender Reassignment There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.

Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)
Not applicable
Pregnancy and Maternity
Not applicable
Race :
Travelling community - There is a clear link to the Travelling community within this policy. This is due to the large majority of horses seized by the MPS and taken to Greenyards belong to the Travelling community. This impact should be purely positive and beneficial to the Travelling community by ensuring the prompt return of their property through the officers having a set of clear guidelines to follow. However, if the owner fails to adhere to various stipulations within the law such as microchipping their animals, having a valid passport for said animal and containing them within a secure area with access to constant forage, water and shelter a negative impact may result from this policy. The policy is set to target those who break the law by allowing their animals to stray onto the public highway thereby causing possible threat to life and limb of the public and will prosecute offenders. Clearly by the very nature of the nomadic lifestyle which the Travelling community live, they may be more susceptible to their horses not being secured appropriately, but this is an undertaking and responsibility that they take on when taking ownership of a horse. The MPS has to balance here the rights of the travelling community and the potential harm to road users of the dangers posed by a stray horse. It is entirely appropriate to ensure the safety of road users by seizing a stray horse where horse owners of any background have failed to contain it within a secure area. For those persons who adhere to the law surrounding horse ownership the policy will have no negative impact factors. Every person owning a stray horse dealt with by the MPS will be dealt with equally and fairly according to the Policy Toolkit which therefore removes and inequality in relation to gender.
Religion and Belief
There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.
Sexual Orientation
There is no direct impact identified at present on individuals or communities within this Protected Characteristic.
Other Issues
None identified.
7. Monitoring – see step 7 of the guidance
a) How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored and by whom?
MO7 Mounted Branch will monitor each case where horses are seized

b) How will the results of monitoring be used to develop this proposal and its practices?
Through the use of feedback, the development officer will be able to ensure that boroughs affected by stray horses are fully aware of the Policy Toolkit and through open communication we can include learning points within the review, encouraging growth in the most effective working practice to ensure the aims are being most thoroughly adhered to. Therefore the proposal will be under constant monitoring/scrutiny to ensure that the procedure actually operates smoothly through learning from individual circumstances.
c) What is the timetable for monitoring, with dates?
Collate individual case information on a month by month basis, and review entire policy one year from date of publication.
8. Public Availability of reports / result – see step 8 of guidance What are the arrangements of publishing, where and by whom?
The MPS policy coordination unit will publish the EIA on the MPS Publication Scheme.

MP 63/11