



Leicestershire Police

Stolen Vehicle Policy

Owner:	Chief Superintendent - CAID
Department Responsible:	Crime and Investigation Department
Chief Officer Approval:	ACC Crime
Date of next review:	January 2026
Security Marking:	OFFICIAL NOT MARKED
This policy and procedure has been reviewed against APP and all relevant procedures.	
Moved to APP:	N/A
Rationale:	N/A

This document has been produced in conjunction with the Leicestershire Police Legislative Compliance Pack

Review log

Date	Minor / Major / No change	Section	Author
November 2020	Major	All	Insp. Glen Icton
October 2021	Minor	6.2, 6.4,	D/Insp Kev Brown
November 2022	Minor	All	DS 1930 Tom Smith
Jan 2023	Minor	All	DI 2920 Nigel Baraclough
Jan 2024	Minor	All	D/Insp Jim Heggs

Note: Authorised Professional Practice (APP) has been checked.

POLICY

1. Statement

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Leicestershire Police have a robust and efficient response to the investigation, administration and return of stolen vehicles. This replaces the previous arrangements, where an owner opted whether or not to allow their vehicle to be forensically examined. Upon recovery of a stolen vehicle it may require forensic examination to maximise the investigative opportunities and the potential for detection and apprehension of the offender. The recovery of vehicles is subject of a separate policy, the "Vehicle Removal Policy".

2. Aim

Leicestershire Police aims to: -

- Increase the safe keeping of the public's vehicles.
- Prevent vehicles being 're-stolen'.
- Prevent vehicles being used in the commission of further offences.
- Prevent damage to the vehicle.
- Prevent danger to the public.
- Carry out the forensic examination of vehicles to further the investigative process.
- Allow the owner the opportunity to have their vehicle returned to them.

3. Scope

This policy will detail Leicestershire Police's response to stolen vehicles. Leicestershire Police have a clear duty in law to manage property in an appropriate manner, safeguarding the interests of legitimate owners. Failure to do so could result in action being taken against the police by the legitimate owner. The Police also have a duty to ensure that abandoned and stolen vehicles do not present a threat or danger to public safety where reasonable action can be taken to prevent this. The policy will, therefore, apply to all confirmed stolen vehicles and abandoned vehicles that present a danger to public safety. Using forensic evidence and intelligence will enable resources to be deployed in the most effective manner in line with the National Intelligence Model, the National Decision-Making Model and the THRIVEA principles.

4. Legal Basis

This policy is supported by legislation, numerous supporting procedures, House of Commons briefing papers and case law. This procedure also takes account of requirements under the following specific legislation: -

- Common Law
- Theft Act 1968
- Section 19 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- Section 22 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- Section 99 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Abandoned Vehicles)

- Section 102 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Payment and Charges)
- Section 165 Road Traffic Act

5. Monitoring

Adherence to the policy will be monitored by managers who will ensure their staff are acting in accordance with the policy.

The Force lead for Vehicle Crime Strategy will be the single point of contact and will take responsibility for ensuring arrangements are made for delivering this policy and that it continues to operate effectively.

PNC will be responsible for monitoring their records as set by the operating protocols of PNC. This is to check that the data quality and procedures are being complied with to the requisite standard. Performance is reported to the Finance Director through the management structure of the responsible department.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis to ensure it remains current and in line with developing legislation.