



Leicestershire Police

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Investigation Policy

Procedure Owner:

Department Responsible:

Chief Officer Approval:

Protective Marking:

Date of Next Review:

This procedure has been reviewed against APP.

Moved to APP:

Rationale:

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

Review log

Date	Minor / Major / No change	Section	Author
August 2010	Live		DS Alison Pledger
August 2011	Minor	All	DI Hopkins / T/DS Main
June 2012			DI Mark Hopkins
November 2014	No change due to APP implementation early 2015		PC K Love
Feb 2015		Front page	
March 2017	Minor	All	DI Michelle Keen/SARC Manager Millie Gant
August 2018	Major	All	DCI Lucy Batchelor
Jan 2019	Minor	7.9	DCI Lucy Batchelor
March 2020	Minor		DCI Lucy Batchelor
April 2021	Minor		DCI Lucy Batchelor
April 2022	Minor		DCI Lucy Batchelor
Jan 2023	Minor		DCI Lucy Batchelor
May 2023	Minor		DCI Lucy Batchelor

Note: Rape and Sexual Offences Procedure and Guidance are still under development on Authorised Professional Practice (APP) with no set publication date.

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Investigation Policy

Statement

The purpose of this policy is to outline the way in which rape and serious sexual offences investigations are conducted within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Procedure to this Policy is a separate document which provides the detailed processes underpinning such investigations ensuring that they conform to nationally approved standards.

The intention of the Policy and Procedure will be to maintain high standards of investigation, enhance the reputation of Leicestershire Police and deliver a **professional, effective, and efficient** service that:

- **protects the community from harm**
- **promotes and increases community confidence in the criminal justice system and the police service**
- **brings offenders to justice appropriately**

Aims

- To improve the outcomes for victims of rape
- To Improve the standard of investigation and prosecution of rape offences
- To improve the quality of treatment for victims who make complaints of rape
- To take effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system
- To increase confidence in the criminal justice system and encourage more victims to report rape to the police
- To increase the proportion of cases which result in charge, court case and conviction
- To use existing national systems to record information and intelligence that will assist in the identification of linked offences
- To adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in the provision of services to victims.

The legal obligations that are the foundation of these priorities include a duty under the Human Right Act 1998, which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 (ECHR) to protect individuals, without discrimination, from inhuman and degrading treatment.

Both the Convention and other legislation, such as Equalities Legislation, place a clear responsibility on public authorities to fulfil these obligations without discrimination on any grounds. All victims of rape and serious sexual assault offences should receive the appropriate quality of service according to their individual needs. All reports of rape and serious sexual offences should be properly investigated and offenders held accountable through the criminal justice system, without discrimination.

Chief Officers should establish and implement policies that ensure the police response to rape and serious sexual assault offences fully support and achieve these priorities. Police staff should maintain and enhance public confidence by delivering these priorities to a high professional standard.

To provide improved victim care throughout the investigation process and to fulfil the above priorities and obligations, partnership working with criminal justice agencies and other statutory and voluntary sector services is essential.

The Procedure provides officers and staff within Leicestershire Police with clear information about the investigation processes for rape and serious sexual assault offences. It is structured to follow the pattern of reporting, responding to and investigating these offences.

Investigations begin with the provision of initial information (via call management, front enquiry offices, personal contact and other means) and continue to their conclusion. Many staff across the organisation will be involved in investigations but where investigations are undertaken past instigation/initial phase they will be dealt with by the centralised rape investigation unit called 'The Signal Team'.

Scope

This policy and associated procedure focuses on the offences of Rape (S1 Sexual offences Act 2003) and Assault by Penetration (S2 Sexual Offences Act 2003) whereby offences or attempted offences are committed in non-familial circumstances against victims aged over 13-17 years of age and all incidents within this offence range for those over 18 years of age (excluding historic child sexual abuse offences where the victim is now an adult).

Legal Basis

This policy and supporting procedure take account of requirements under ECHR 1951, The Human Rights Act 1998, Equality and Diversity legislation, The Health and Safety Act 1974 and Data Protection Act 1998. It also incorporates sexual offences legislation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Monitoring

This policy and associated procedure will be monitored through the Force Compliance Unit and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Links to other Policies and Procedures should be made on the following topics:

Domestic Abuse and Honour Based Violence, NIM, Crime recording, Data Protection, Information security, Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements, Hate Crime, Health and Safety and Child Abuse Investigation.