



Leicestershire Police Stalking and Harassment Policy

Procedure Owner:	Det Supt, Serious Crime
Department Responsible:	Crime and Intelligence Directorate
Chief Officer Approval:	Assistant Chief Constable
Protective Marking:	Restricted – Not for Publication
Date of Next Review:	April 2024

This document has been reviewed against APP and all relevant Procedures.

Moved to APP:	Not moved to APP
Rationale:	APP is incomplete at this time

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

Review log

Date	Minor / Major / No change	Section	Author
Oct 2012	Live		Insp Pete Williams
Dec 2012	Minor	Section 2/ Appendix E – new legislation	PS 4320 Gail Simpson
Dec 2015	Minor	All – post Edison structure, discontinuance of PINs and new legislation	PS 4320 Gail Simpson / DS 517 Tim Lindley
Oct 2016	Minor		PS 4320 Gail Simpson
Sept 2017	Minor	All	DI Mark Ringrose
October 2018	Minor		Ps 1206 Jamie Osborne
August 2020	Major	All sections	DCI 4577 Lucy Batchelor
April 2022	Minor		DCI 4577 Batchelor
April 2023	No change		DCI 4577 Batchelor

POLICY

Statement

Crimes and incidents involving stalking and harassment can be serious and, in extreme cases, incidents of stalking and harassment can lead to homicide. Investigations relating to stalking and harassment can be linked to some of the most serious crimes that the police deal with including murder, sexual offences and domestic abuse. The impact of harassment on victims, families and communities can be devastating. As a consequence this Policy is intended to ensure all those affected by stalking and harassment receive a consistent quality of service and an appropriate level of support.

Effective police responses to crimes related to harassment can have a direct impact on improving public satisfaction, confidence in the criminal justice system and bringing offenders to justice. The delivery of this Policy will contribute to making communities safer and delivering a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public.

Aims

The **priorities** of Leicestershire Police in responding to stalking and harassment are as follows:

- to protect the lives and preserve the safety of all victims and others who are or may be at risk as a result of stalking and harassment;
- to investigate all reports of stalking and harassment
- to facilitate effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system;
- to adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing harassment;
- to reduce repeat victimisation.

Scope

This Policy and accompanying Procedure will deal with Leicestershire Police's response to incidents which meet the definition of stalking and harassment as defined in The Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

The primary intention of this Policy and accompanying Procedure is to ensure that Leicestershire Police provide an effective and consistent response to stalking and harassment incidents anywhere within the force area. The secondary intention is to raise the awareness of Leicestershire Police employees to the fact that, when attending such incidents, the unique circumstances of the incident and the effectiveness of their response to it, could have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family and/or the community.

Legal Basis

This Policy and accompanying Procedure take account of the following legislation and guidance:

- Protection From Harassment Act 1997
- Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Human Rights Act 1998 & European Convention on Human Rights
- Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004
- ACPO Guidance on Investigating Stalking and Harassment (NPIA 2009)

Monitoring

Superintendent, Serious Crime, Crime and Intelligence Directorate

The Superintendent Serious Crime within the Crime and Intelligence Directorate (CAID) will be responsible for ensuring the implementation and ongoing effectiveness of this Policy. He / she will also be responsible for any review of this document and its contents. He / she will be responsible for monitoring overall compliance with this policy.