



Response Policing



By the end of the lesson learners will be able to:

1. **Identify** types of incidents and crimes that get reported to the police.
2. **Explain** the process of call allocation to officers.
3. **Explain** what an operational officer would be considering upon arrival at an incident.
4. **Explain** the benefits of mobile data technology.

What do the public expect?

In 1974, Egon Bitner wrote that the role of the police is to be on hand when;

“something is happening that ought not to be happening & about which someone better do something now”

The police are expected to prevent crime, help those in immediate danger, to investigate offences, to catch criminals, to sustain public order & to protect people, particularly vulnerable people from harm



QTS – what do the public expect from us?

Egon Bittner – a pioneer in the sociology of policing. He is renowned for his ground breaking studies of the relationships between Police and society. (His most notable works is ‘The Functions of the Police in modern Society(1970)).

This mission has expanded in response to social change. During the 2000s the police were asked to take on a greater enforcement role around antisocial behaviour. This was arguably the consequence of the gradual erosion of informal social controls over the post war period as society became more mobile, atomised and diverse. The weakening of informal mechanisms of social control is likely to have been responsible for an increased demand for a visible police presence on the street and increased calls on public service professionals to intervene in matters that in the past were handled by communities themselves.

Police Patrol

PATROL: *The backbone of policing*



The majority of officers assigned to response provide the bulk of the Police Service
Response officers are the 'gatekeepers' to the Criminal Justice System



Group Task- split class into 4 groups

QTS

**What do you consider the function of response policing to be?
What do you think you'll achieve as a response officer?**

Types of Patrol

Most police patrols are mobile patrol



Cars provide more efficient patrol than foot



Cover more area



Patrol in an unpredictable manner



Respond quickly to calls



Shift from foot patrols to car patrols 1920 – 1950s – but still vitally important as a consequence of mobile patrols are loss of direct contact with members of the public and communities

Most patrols will be single crewed to provide more police visibility to the community

Styles of Patrol

Individual styles of officers are important – the amount of work accomplished , productivity, volume of arrests, response to calls

Pro-active

Officer initiated actions
(stops, questioning,
traffic)

Re-active

Public initiated work,
officers may be passive or
active in their response to
complaints



Aspects of evaluating the effectiveness of police patrol:
Response times are the gold standard for both Police and Public
Response time should increase the likelihood of arrest
Should increase public satisfaction with Police

Functions of Response Policing

Proactive Patrols



Deter crime



Enhance sense of public safety through
police presence



To make officers available for
deployment



Number of officers – Police: Population ratio

This has little relationship to crime rate or calls for service

Towns/Cities with higher crime often have more officers

Allocation of officers to patrol:

Based on workload formulas

Time of day (more serious crime at night)

Location (crime/disorder more common in poorer areas; lower income)

Mobile Data Technology: The beginning

25th March 2008

"People need to see their policemen and women in their communities to feel safer so this Government has ensured that every community in England and Wales will have its own dedicated Neighbourhood Police Team patrolling the streets, contactable by mobile phone and in touch with local people."



Rt Hon Mr Gordon Brown
Prime Minister



This was a statement that was made by the 'then' Prime Minister in 2008

Mobile Data Technology



Mobile Data Technology: The benefits

Reduce time spent by Police Officers & PCSO's at police stations

Increased visibility of policing teams

Ease of contact between the community & policing teams

Increased effectiveness by improved access to policing info & intel

Ability to record details at the scene of an incident & update systems 'live time'

Professionalise the delivery of what we do

Increase public confidence & satisfaction



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QTS - What are the benefits of mobile technology?

Anticipated Operational, Customer & Business Benefits



Trainer to ask the students what they think are other benefits to the operational officer, the organisation and to the community.

By improving efficiency, driving out waste and increasing productivity, I believe that we can make the police service stronger even as it becomes leaner. - Nick Herbert Minister for policing 25 Jan 2011

Also reduce our carbon footprint by making fewer 'incident to station' return journeys.

Types of incidents/crimes reported					
Murder	Suicide	Suicidal people	Rape/Sexual assault	Child Sexual Exploitation	Kidnap
Domestic Abuse/HBA	Missing Persons	Mental Health	Forced Marriage	Robbery	Burglary
Theft	Fraud	Firearms	Road Traffic Collisions	Assaults	Terrorism
Welfare concerns	Anti-social behaviour	Hate crime	Bomb threats	Cyber crime	Human trafficking /slavery

What types of incidents get reported to the Police? **Trainer to allocate quiz sheets to students before revealing answers.**

These are a few types of incidents that the students will be responding to as a result of the Force Control Room (Gwent) and Public Service Centre (SWP) taking the initial call and details from the caller.

Media

At some incidents; such as murder or terrorism incidents, the press may turn up, asking some very awkward questions.

It would be prudent to say 'A STATEMENT MAY BE RELEASED SHORTLY' if anything at all, allowing the media department or local press officer to make the necessary statements to the press.

Look up for forces policy in relation to dealing with the media.

The college of policing has an extensive learning material that can also be read.

Members of the public may also use their mobile phones to film your live onto social media, be aware of your behaviour and what you say, as once uploaded, it would be very difficult have it removed.

There is no law in relation to anyone filming you doing your job.

Trainer to state that the Media may turn up at incidents, and give HANDOUT of basic Do and Don't of media interaction

Force Control Room/ Public Service Centre

All calls to police are answered & dealt with at the FCR/PSC based at Police Headquarters



Sophisticated systems are used within them in order to locate & deploy the closest & most appropriate police resource to help us safeguard our communities

Call handling

Incident handling

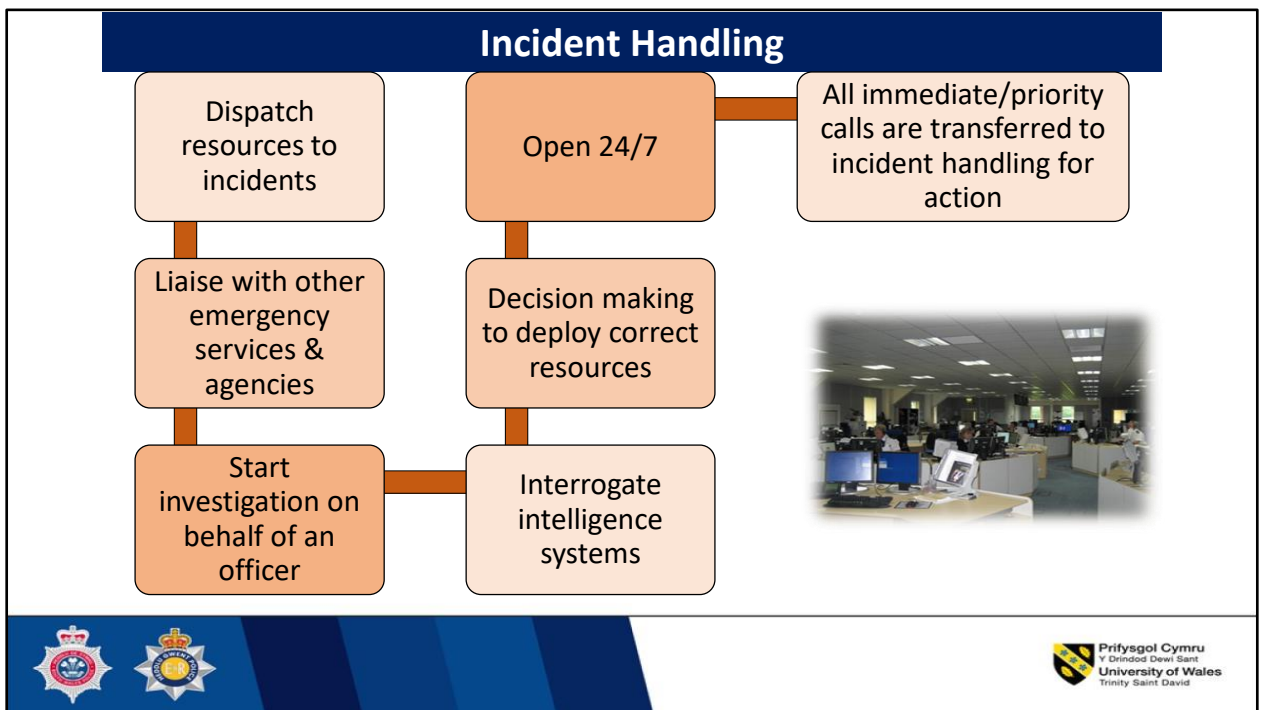
Information Intelligence Directorate

Abnormal loads



Role of the FCR/ PSC staff

- Answer all calls into the FCR/ PSC
- To establish callers needs and where necessary, open an incident log/ offer advice/ transfer calls to other departments
- Resolve calls whenever possible
- Allocate the attendance of suitable police resources to scheduled response incidents
- To ensure that each and every contact with the public is of the highest standard



What types of information do you think the call operator will want to get from the Reporting Person?

E.G Descriptions, direction of travel, weapon descriptions, injuries, medical assistance required etc.

Who else do you think the control room operator will be considering/ requesting to attend the incident.

E.G. First Responder, Ambulance, Firearms, Dog Handler etc.

Whilst en-route to the call what would you be considering?

E.G. Obtaining info en-route, suspect warning markers, descriptions, support required, circulating observations, request ambulance, other units etc,

As first officer on the scene what are your considerations?

Golden Hour principles, injuries to victim, suspect direction of travel, statement, recording victim demeanour, scene preservation, photographs, seizing exhibits, CSI, cordons, BWV, safeguarding etc.

The First Responder

1st



The first responder is a person trained in emergency care, paid or volunteer who is often summoned to provide initial care in an emergency



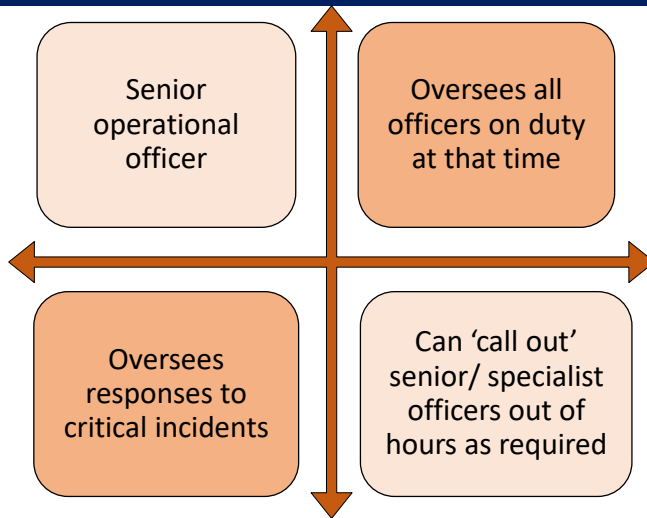
Who is a first responder?

The first responder remains responsible for investigation and safety planning unless and until the case is handed over to a specialist or other investigating officer.

Officers should obtain all relevant information from the call handler about the incident and parties involved to enable initial risk assessment prior to arrival at the scene. Thus utilising the NDM in responding to the incident and conducting a dynamic risk-assessment prior to arrival at the scene. This will include previous calls (actionable intelligence NIM), requirement for further resources or specialist support.

On arrival at the scene - The first priority of an officer should be to protect all people present from injury or further harm. This includes the victim, children, witnesses, police officers and the suspect.

The Inspector's Role



Body Worn Video (BWV)

Officers should also be prepared to gather evidence as soon as they arrive at the scene. BWV recordings can provide excellent evidence particularly in criminal proceedings as they :-

Have significant dramatic impact

Record the scene exactly

Record the demeanour of the parties

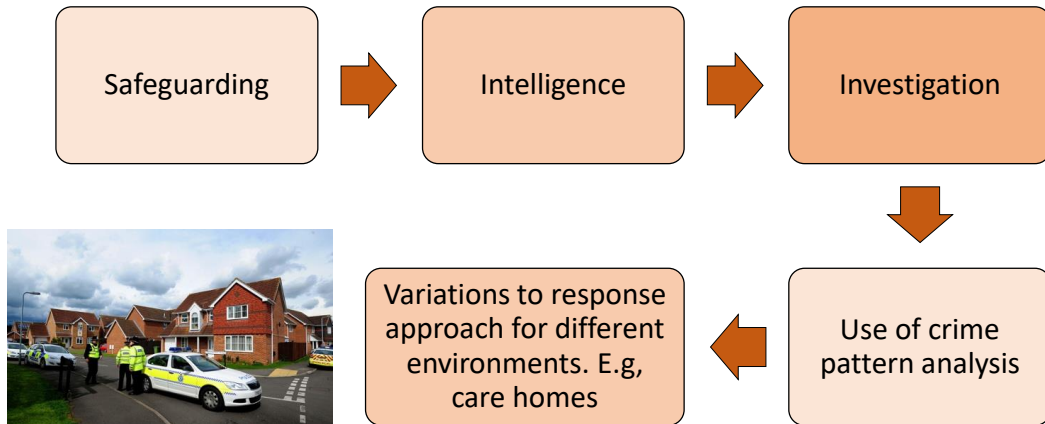
Accurately record significant comments at the scene



There is some good evidence to show that where officers responding to domestic abuse are equipped with body-worn cameras the proportion of sanctioned detections resulting in a criminal charge increases. The impact of attending officers wearing BWV on the views and experiences of victims has not yet been explored however. Forces may want to consider whether officers equipped with BWV should be routinely assigned to domestic abuse incidents. If body-worn video equipment is available to officers responding to a domestic incident, its use should always be considered.

BWV is technological evidence and therefore can not be refuted – *What you see is what you get!!*

Key Considerations in Response Policing



SAFEGUARDING:

Where applicable, officers should:

- seek advice in complex cases
- note that the victim is often the primary source of evidence and should be treated as such, with due regard to their safety, state of mind and ability to cope with forensic requests
- note that the suspect and other persons, including children, at the premises may also be sources of evidence
- secure, preserve and control the scene to limit any access until they can adequately assess the situation
- remove people and animals from the immediate scene of the incident, and, ideally, from the whole area
- establish physical secondary scene parameters – potentially the whole of the premises
- note that the suspect's actions following the incident may create further sites of forensic interest
- consider erecting cordons and putting in place a loggist to record persons entering and leaving (depending on the severity of the incident)
- consider any potential areas of contamination that could compromise the integrity of evidential material
- request a CSI to attend or record the reasons why a CSI was not called or did not attend

- establish a work base in a safe area of the premises
- ensure the scene is photographed or visually recorded as soon as possible
- secure and preserve CCTV evidence if it exists
- secure and preserve mobile phones or computer equipment.

INTELLIGENCE:

The police collect information that is required for policing purposes. Policing purposes provide the legal basis for the collection, recording, evaluation, sharing and retention of information and may include one, or a combination, of the following:

- protecting life and property
- preserving order
- preventing the commission of offences
- bringing offenders to justice
- any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law.

Information is collected in one of three ways:

- Routine collection
- Tasked information
- Volunteered information

INVESTIGATION:

The [Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 Code of Practice](#) under part 2 states that:

All investigators have a responsibility for carrying out the duties imposed on them under this code, including in particular recording information and retaining records of information and other material.

The successful management of an investigation requires planning, organisation, control and motivation.

VARIATIONS TO RESPONSE APPROACH FOR DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS EG CARE HOMES

The day-to-day state of order and policing services provided within a community. This can vary widely from one area to another and even by time of day. Effective information and intelligence management provides accurate information as to the current state. It should be recognised that communities are complex in nature and may be permanent or transient.

Partner agencies should be involved in the planning and resolution of operations and incidents as appropriate.

USE OF CRIME PATTERN ANALYSIS:

The effective strategies and tactics implemented by analysts are now integral to modern day policing. They allow front-line officers to react faster by identifying emerging patterns and trends as quickly as possible, and meet the law enforcement needs of a changing society.

With new directives to do more with less, police forces are using analysts to look at shift configurations and identify crime hotspots. They also help maximize the use of limited law enforcement resources, which in turn helps officers do better police work.

Crime analysis is a law enforcement function that involves systematic analysis for identifying and analysing patterns and trends in crime and disorder. Information on patterns can help law enforcement agencies deploy resources in a more effective manner, and assist detectives in identifying and apprehending suspects. Crime

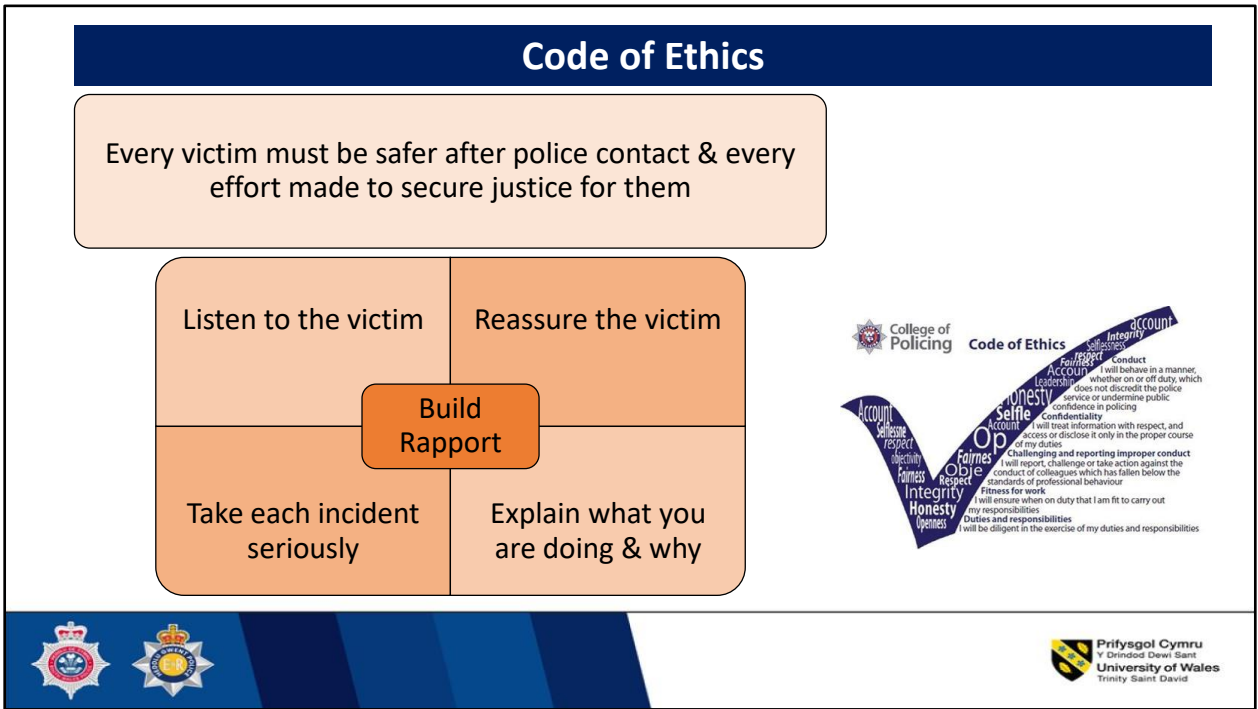
analysis also plays a role in devising solutions to crime problems, and formulating crime prevention strategies. Quantitative social science data analysis methods are part of the crime analysis process, though qualitative methods such as examining police report narratives also play a role.

Crime (and criminal intelligence) analysis in the United Kingdom is governed by the National Intelligence Model, an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) code of practice that establishes a common approach to the business. This was rolled out in 2000 by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS, now part of the National Crime Agency (NCA)) and adopted by ACPO, becoming a requirement for UK police forces, with a number of minimum standards assessed during inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

There are varying roles available in law enforcement within the UK, from police forces to the Serious Organised Crime Agency to Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue (HMCR) to related roles in private companies such as insurance and telecoms providers. There is an increasing role for analysis within what is referred to as 'partners' within the police, including council authorities. This has particularly been the case since the Crime and Disorder Act (CDA) Review and the subsequent Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, which included a requirement for the annual provision of a partnership Strategic Assessment, including analysis in relation to problems of crime and disorder and substance misuse.

Analysts support policing through the provision and support of four key 'Intelligence Products', these being the Strategic Assessment, the Tactical Assessment, the Problem Profile and the Subject Profile (formerly referred to as the 'Target Profile') and ten 'analytical tools & techniques'. The key skills of an analyst within UK law enforcement must be to identify patterns and trends, make inferences in relation to these patterns, provide recommendations to support action and provide products and briefings that deliver this information and interpretation clearly and in an appropriate format for the audience.

Crime analysis can occur at various levels, including tactical, operational, and strategic. Crime analysts study crime reports, arrest reports, and police calls for service to identify emerging patterns, series, and trends as quickly as possible. They analyse these phenomena for all relevant factors, sometimes predict or forecast future occurrences, and issue bulletins, reports, and alerts to their agencies. They then work with their police agencies to develop effective strategies and tactics to address crime and disorder. Other duties of crime analysts may include preparing statistics, data queries, or maps on demand; analysing beat and shift configurations; preparing information for community or court presentations; answering questions from the public and the press.



The Policing Principles state:

Every person working for the police service must work honestly and ethically. The public expect the police to do the right thing in the right way. Basing decisions and actions on a set of policing principles will help to achieve this.

The principles set out in this Code of Ethics originate from the 'Principles of Public Life' published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in 1995, as these continue to reflect public expectations. The Code includes the principles of 'fairness' and 'respect' as research has shown these to be crucial to maintaining and enhancing public confidence in policing.

The policing principles reflect the personal beliefs and aspirations that in turn serve to guide behaviour and shape the policing culture. The combination of principles and standards of behaviour encourages consistency between what people believe in and aspire to, and what they do.

Policing principles

Accountability

You are answerable for your decisions, actions and omissions.

Fairness

You treat people fairly.

Honesty

You are truthful and trustworthy.

Integrity

You always do the right thing.

Leadership

You lead by good example.

Objectivity

You make choices on evidence and your best professional judgement.

Openness

You are open and transparent in your actions and decisions.

Respect

You treat everyone with respect.

Selflessness

You act in the public interest.

T.H.R.I.V.E.

THRIVE is a risk management tool which considers 6 elements to assist in identifying the appropriate response grade based on the needs of the caller & the circumstances of the incident



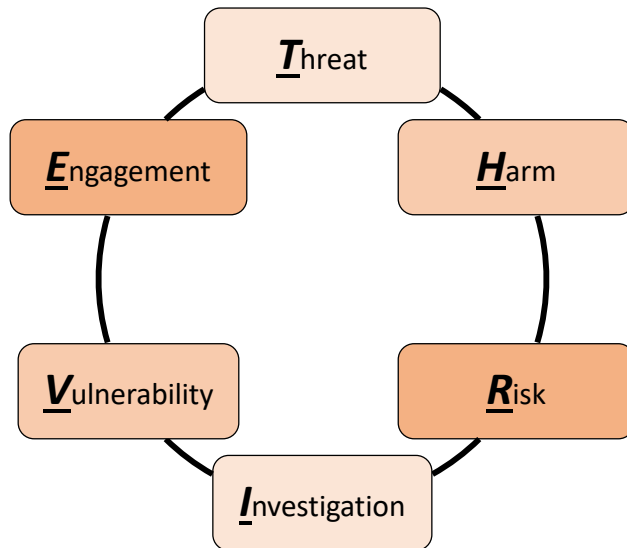
THRIVE – Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement

QTS

Have you heard of THRIVE?

Do you know what the 6 elements of the strategy are?

T.H.R.I.V.E.



THRIVE (Preventing, Protecting & Helping)

A **threat** is a communicated or perceived intent to harm or loss on another person.

Harm is to do or cause harm e.g to injure, damage or hurt - physically or psychologically.

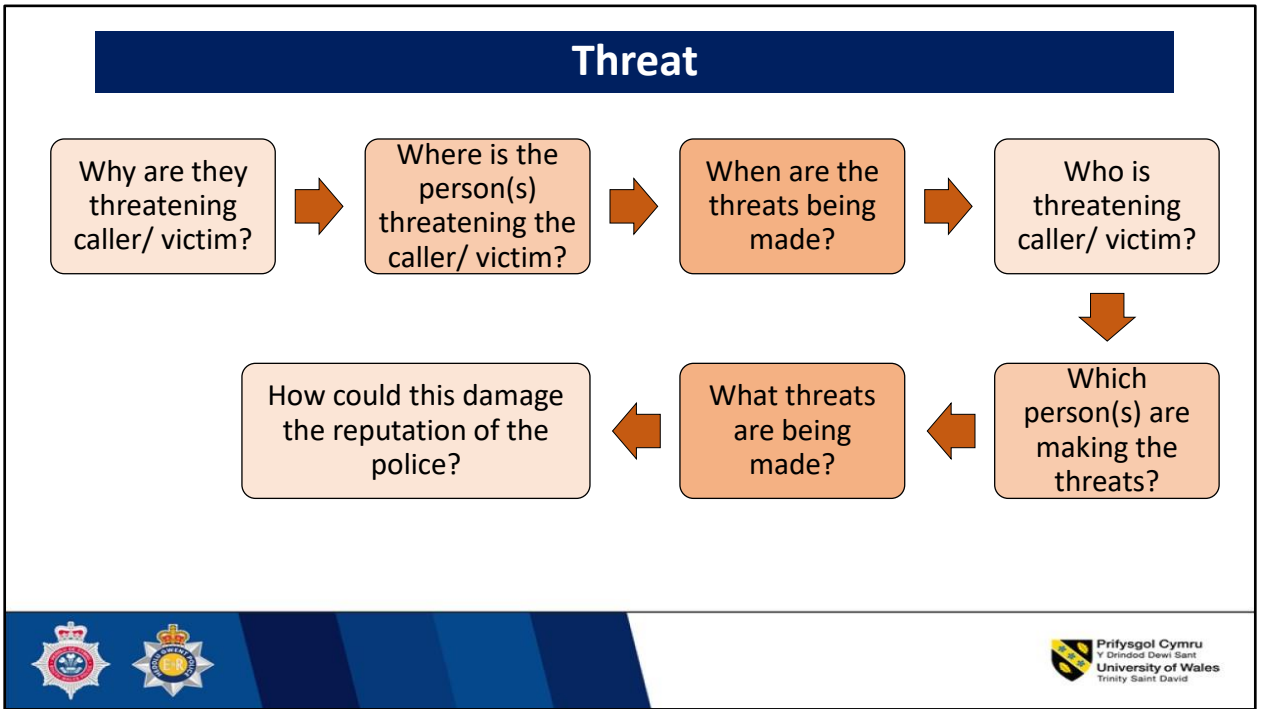
Risk is the likelihood of the event occurring

Investigation is the act or process of examining the crime, problem or situation and considering what action is required

Vulnerability is defined for the process of incident management as "a person is vulnerable if a result of their situation or circumstances , they are unable to take care or protect themselves, or others from harm or exploitation"

Engagement is where organisations and individuals build a positive relationships for the benefit of all parties.

Prevent is identifying opportunities to prevent further incidents occurring or a worsening of threat, risk and harm and allocating the most appropriate resource to intervene before further, more serious intervention is required

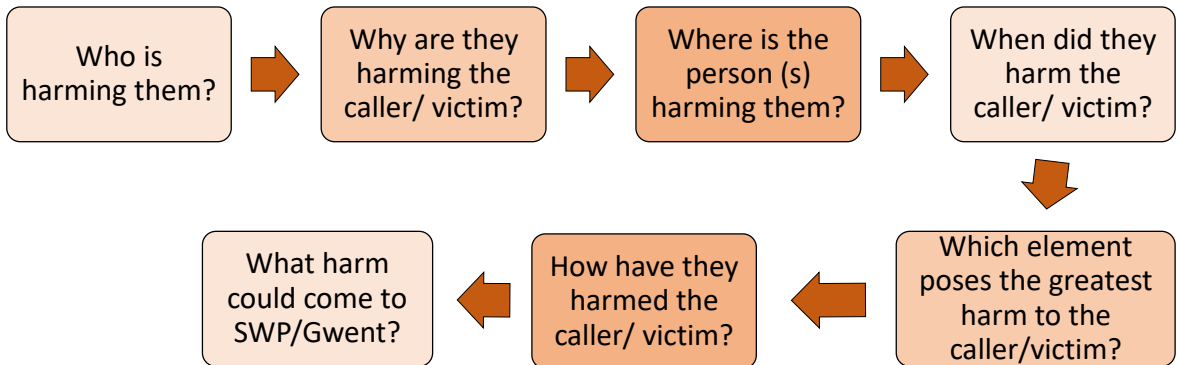


Group Task

Allocate one element of the mnemonic 'THRIVE' to each group.

Trainer to ask other groups to add to the element if possible from the Boardblast. Trainer to discuss answers and use PPT slides 21 – 26 to debrief.

Harm



Risk

Who is at risk?



Why are they
at risk?



Where are the
risks to the
caller/ victim
or others?



When is the
caller/ victim
most at risk?



What risks are
there to the
caller/ victim or
others?



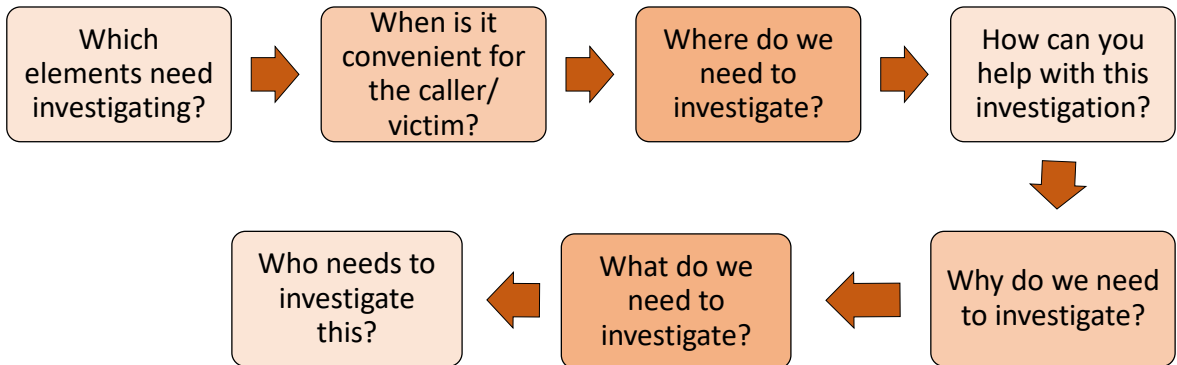
How have you
gauged the risk to
the caller/ victim or
others?



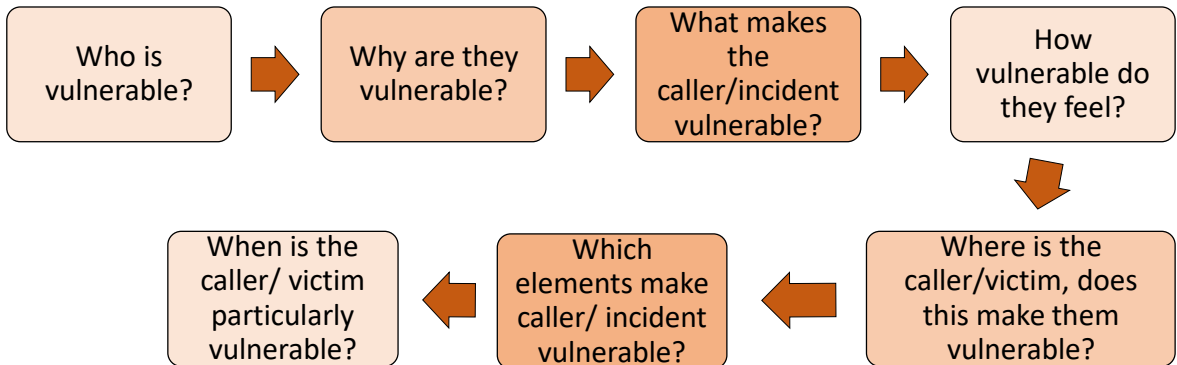
Which element
poses the greatest
risk?



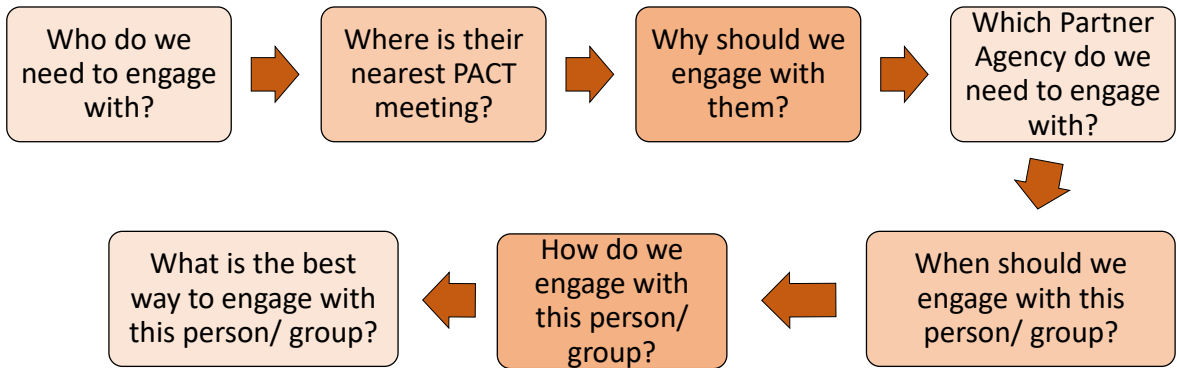
Investigation...ask the right questions



Vulnerability



Engagement





Ask question before listing slide:

You are on patrol and you have had a call stating that there has been a serious accident on the railway line, there are no British Transport Police immediately available, what are you going to do?

**The answers will be many, open discussion for a few minutes and pin point to British Transport Police, Rail Accident Investigation Branch; Emergency workers from other disciplines e.g. fire service, ambulance, air ambulance – potential critical incident ; who declares it? Inform student of the following on the College of Policing Website:
<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/civil-emergencies/civil-contingencies/investigation/>**

Trainer to handout – ‘Incidents on railway lines’

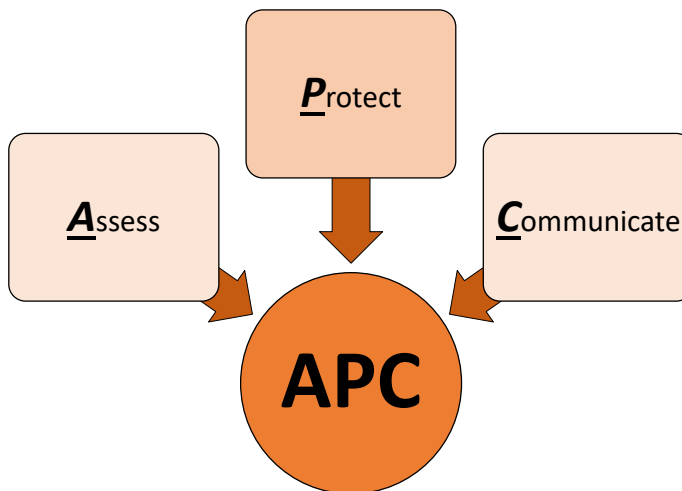
Attend within the timescale given to the victim

The role of the first officer attending the scene is to provide the initial personal police contact and continue the investigative process.

This will be achieved by:

Communicating with the victim or witnesses - Provide clear explanation of what the police response will be. Be aware that 'first impressions count'. Consider the needs of the victim e.g. medical, removal from the scene, attendance of a friend, family member or victim care / victim support officer. Assessing and preserving the scene and any evidence
Considering health and safety risks
Initiating any urgent action and appropriate support services response
Completing relevant documentation
Providing advice and guidance
Completing initial enquiries

Arriving at the Scene



1. Assess & preserve scene / evidence: Prioritise Actions:

- To help you decide on the most appropriate action
- What is the best way into the crime scene?

Remember contact trace evidence – health & safety

Question? ‘who is at risk at the scene of an incident?’ You / other officers / victim / witnesses / members of the public / other agencies.

Potential risks can come from:-

Agitated victim / witness / suspect

Weapons

Chemicals - drugs

Body fluids – carry disease (hepatitis, HIV)

Sharp objects – needles / glass / metal

Structural damage – buildings or vehicles

Poor lighting – it is dark for roughly half of the day and the police work 24 hours a day. Be seen wear fluorescent jackets.

Ask – What? When? Where? Who? Why? How?

Question? ‘What types of physical evidence may be found at a scene?’

- Obtain details of suspects
- Identify entry and escape routes
- Consider physical search.

Question? *What are we searching for?* Property / evidence / suspect

Question? *Who could help us carry out a search?* Other officers / search trained officers / dog / helicopter

What hazards may be present? Structural damage, body fluids, drugs, sharps, violent suspects, offensive weapons

2. Protect:

a) The scene

- Do not allow the victim / witnesses to clean up
- Do not walk around and move things yourself

b) Other evidence

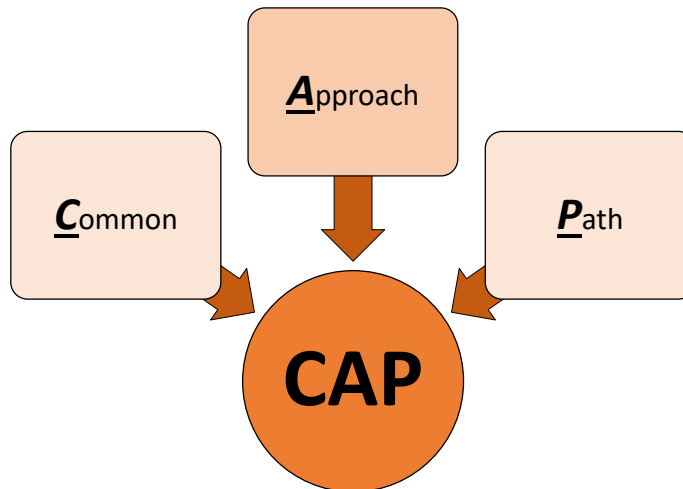
- Documents
- Vehicles
- Suspects
- Firearms

What do student notes say about documents, vehicles and suspects? – Reiterate importance of health and safety when searching suspects.

3. Communicate:

- Keep Control updated with all information so that they can send you any assistance you require
- Communicate with people at the scene to establish the facts.

Control of the Scene



Q. Who is at risk during incidents?

Q. What risk can you envisage?

Q. How would you overcome this?

Protect the scene by establishing a route in and out of the scene and ensure everyone is aware and follows it.

Think about the path the offender is most likely to have taken and try to avoid it so that you don't contaminate or damage any evidence.

Contact Trace Evidence

“Wherever he **steps**, whatever he **touches**, whatever he **leaves**, even unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his **fingerprints** or his **footprints**, but his **hair**, the **fibres** from his **clothes**, the **glass** he breaks, the **tool** mark he leaves, the **paint** he **scratches**, the **blood** or **semen** he deposits or collects. All of these & more, bear mute witness against him.”

“This is evidence that does not forget. It is not confused by the excitement of the moment. It is not absent because human witnesses are. It is factual evidence. Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, it cannot be wholly absent. Only human failure to find it, study & understand it, can diminish its value.”



Dr Edmond Locard



The Locard's Exchange Principle, also known as Locard's Theory simply states that with contact between two items, there will always be an exchange. Trace evidence is any type of material left at or taken from a crime scene or accident scene in small (maybe almost invisible) but measurable amounts or the result of contact between two surfaces, like shoes and the carpet, or fibers from where someone sat on a sofa.. Trace evidence is critically important as it can definitively link an individual or object to the crime or accident scene.

After a crime has been committed the crime scene must be carefully preserved so that the police or the people first on the crime scene don't contaminate it, because they also leave trace evidence. They need to keep any contact with the crime scene to a minimum

Although trace evidence on its own is often not enough to make a case, it could very well corroborate other evidence or even prompt a confession which could help to solve the case.

Edmond Locard was the director of the very first crime laboratory in existence, located in Lyon, France. Locard's techniques proved useful to the French Secret Service during World War I (1914–1918), when he was able to

determine where soldiers and prisoners had died by examining the stains on their uniforms.

Initiate Urgent Action & Appropriate Support Service Responses



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Boardblast - Most urgent action may be to arrest the offender, split the board into two halves marked 'internal departments' and 'external agencies'.

Question? 'Who might we call on for assistance at the scene of an incident?'

Internal – dog / helicopter / CID / supervisor / SOCO

External – Ambulance / Fire service / Highways / Environmental agency etc.

Make sure that you communicate the facts of the incident clearly to other people attending the scene to prevent loss of evidence and duplication of work.

Complete Initial Enquiries & Documentation



Identify:
Witnesses

Location of property
Identity of offender
Location of offender



Scene Log
EPNB

Exhibit Labels
Crime Reports
Statements



QTS

What lines of investigation are open to us complete an inquiry?

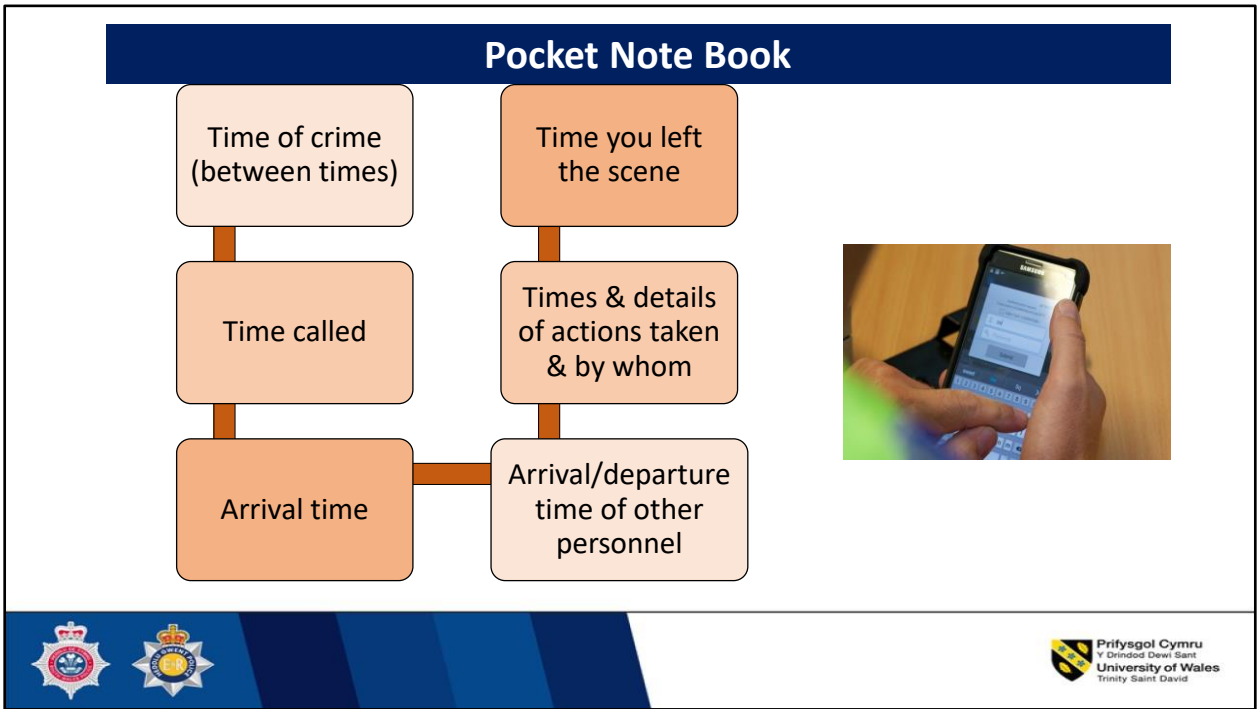
What documentation might you have to fill out?

In what cases would it be best to take statements straight away and why?

Documentation:

Crime report

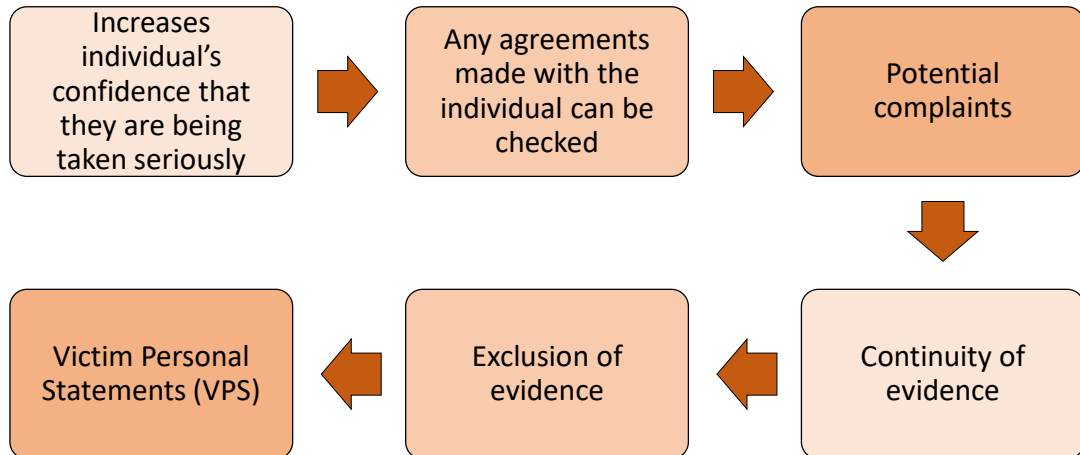
Statements including Victim Personal Statements– **Question? In what cases would it be best to take statements straight away?** Possible likelihood of early detection of crime / witness may not remember things at a later date / witness doesn't live locally or will be unavailable / serious offence / prevent interference with evidence



Q. What details would you record your pocket note books?

Stress importance of using PNB and the value of this for later on if you need to refer to it during the investigation or subsequent evidence giving. Must be accurate and made at the time

The importance of Making Records



QTS – why is it important to make records?

Accurately documenting written records of a person's needs, any agreements reached and the support offered is vital for the smooth progress and in case of an inquiry.

Records of any agreements reached with the individual regarding meeting their needs provides a record that can be referred to later to ensure nothing is overlooked.

If a **complaint** is made by the individual that their needs were not addressed, this written record will be important.

A written record will also assist in ensuring that essential evidential details are not omitted.

Continuity: a number of persons may be involved in the enquiry so to ensure that everyone understands exactly what has happened it is important to record the decisions that have been made so the job can be done efficiently.

Continuity of Evidence: some interviews with vulnerable people can take place over a number of sessions/days because of communication requirements. Accounts from previous interviews need to be summarised so the interview can start where it left off.

Exclusion or Inadmissible Evidence: the police/CPS need to demonstrate

that they followed the rules regarding vulnerable/intimidated witnesses from the beginning – potential evidence may be excluded by the court if they don't.

Victim Personal Statements (VPS): statements made by the victim at the end of their evidential statements to tell the court the impact of the crime on the individual. They are read out in court after a finding of guilt and help the magistrate/judge determine the severity of the sentence – **they must not be left out.** (VPS is covered in more detail in the following slides)

It is important that the person is made aware of the force's confidentiality policy and how the Data Protection Act 1998 affects them. They should be informed how the information they are giving will be recorded, how it will be stored and who will have access to it. This will be particularly important to people who may feel threatened by the perpetrator(s) of a crime or ASB, as they may be worried that the perpetrators will find out what they have said and of any potential repercussions.

It is important to build upon the relationship of trust that has been established and reassure them that their information will be handled securely.

The Consequences of Inaccurate Records

Inaccurate, illegible or incomplete records could result in :-

Inappropriate treatment of victims & witnesses due to confusion about their needs



Wasted police time spent deciphering illegible handwriting

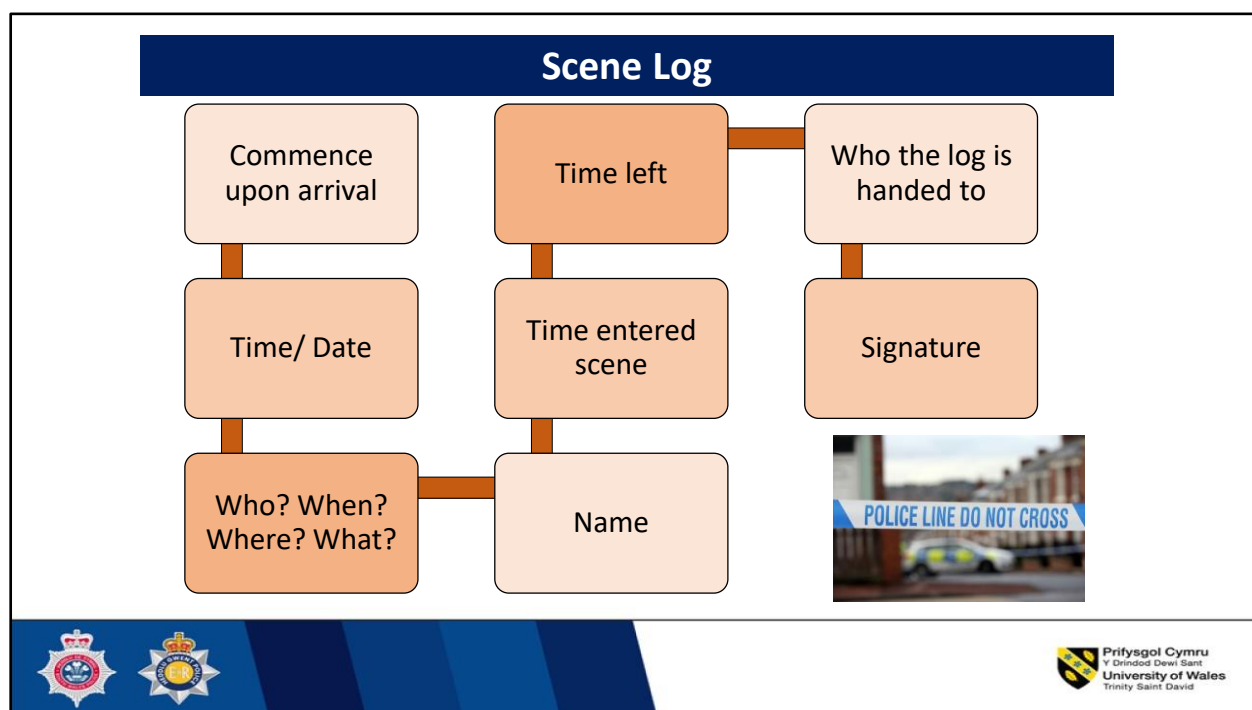


Potential evidence being ruled as inadmissible in court

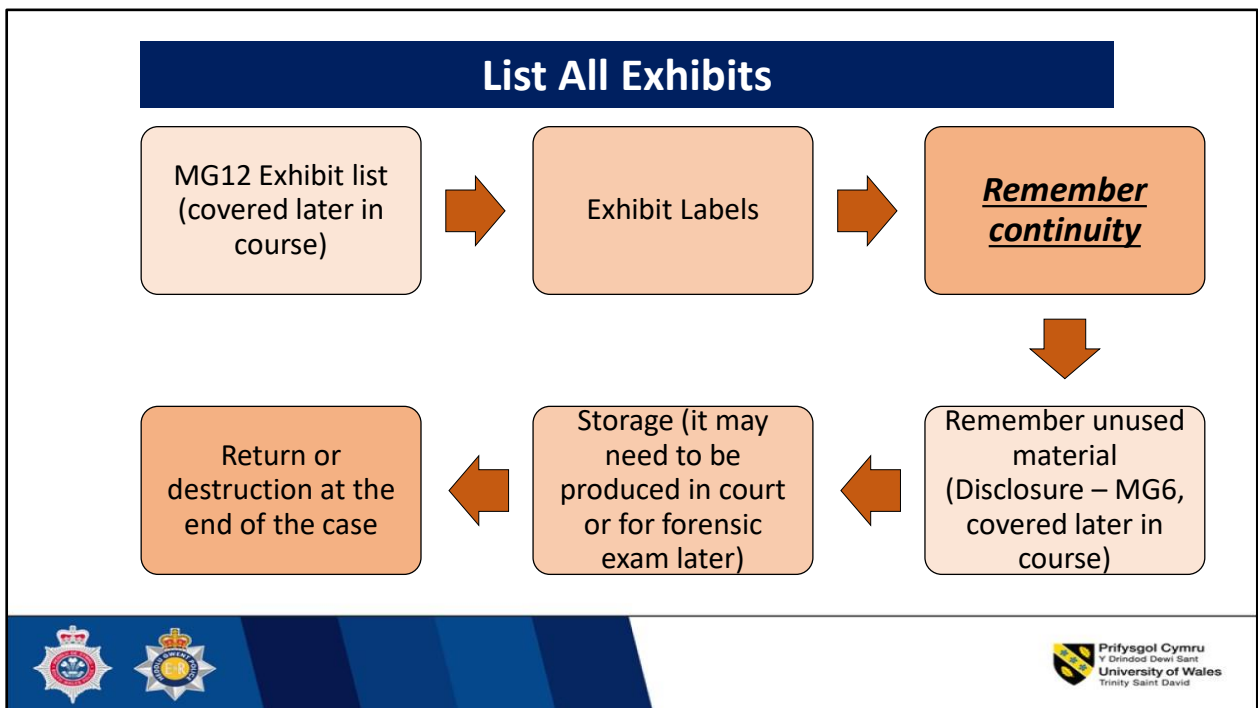


QTS – what might the consequences be if you didn't record material accurately?

Accurately documenting written records of a person's needs, any agreements reached and support offered is vital for the smooth progress and in case of an inquiry.



QTS - What details would you record on a scene log?



QTS – what details would you need to record in relation to seizing any exhibits?

Full description of exhibits, e.g white short sleeve t-shirt with small blue Nike emblem on left side of chest area, extra large size

Give exact location where the item was recovered from – e.g chest of drawers in main living room of 1a High Street

Custody number/ identification

Signature of witness

Address/person from where/whom the exhibit was found

Identity mark of exhibit

Date/time/number of person's taking possession

Trainer to handout 'Principles of incident Management'

Activity 5: GROUP TASK :

Following this slide.....

TRAINER TO ALLOCATE SCENARIO TO STUDENTS. STUDENTS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Q. What further information do you need whilst 'en-route' to the call?

Q1. What options do you have in relation to attending the scene?

Q2. What are your considerations upon arrival at the scene?

Q. What are your initial thoughts and actions?

Procedures involving Death or Serious Injury (DSI)

Any circumstances in or as a result of which a person has died or sustained serious injury **and**

at the time of the DSI, the person had been arrested by a person serving with the police & had not been released, or was detained in the custody of a person serving with the police **or**

at or before the time of the DSI, the person had direct or indirect contact with a person serving with the police who was acting in the execution of their duties & there is an indication that the contact may have directly or indirectly caused or contributed to the DSI

The circumstances surrounding a DSI may not involve the use of force by a police officer/ police staff member



All notes have been taken directly from the APP on the College of Policing website. Students can refer to this if they wish for further reading

A DSI matter means any circumstances (unless the circumstances are or have been the subject of a complaint or amount to a conduct matter) in or as a result of which a person has died or sustained serious injury &:

- at the time of the DSI, the person had been arrested by a person serving with the police & had not been released, or was detained in the custody of a person serving with the police

or:

- at or before the time of the DSI, the person had direct or indirect contact with a person serving with the police who was acting in the execution of their duties, & there is an indication that the contact may have directly or indirectly caused or contributed to the DSI. This sub-category excludes contact that a person suffering the DSI had while acting in the execution of their duties as a person serving with the police (see [section 12 of the Police Reform Act 2002](#) as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017)

A serious injury is a fracture, deep cut, deep laceration or injury causing damage to an internal organ or the impairment of any bodily function (see [section 29 of the Police Reform Act 2002](#)).

The circumstances surrounding a DSI may not involve the use of force by a police officer or member of police staff.

Procedures involving Death or Serious Injury (DSI)

Chief Officer must take all appropriate steps to obtain & preserve evidence

This must be done as soon as practicable after the Chief Officer becomes aware of the DSI

Statutory duty to refer any complaint or incident involving a DSI which has occurred or following police contact to the IOPC where there is an allegation or indication that direct or indirect police contact may have caused or contributed to the DSI



Where a chief officer becomes aware of a DSI matter relating to a person under their direction & control, the chief officer must take all appropriate steps for the purposes of [the Police Reform Act 2002, Part 2](#) to obtain & preserve evidence relating to that DSI matter.

This duty must be performed as soon as practicable after the chief officer becomes aware of the DSI. They should continue to take appropriate steps to obtain & preserve evidence until they believe it is no longer necessary to do so.

The chief officer must take any steps directed by the relevant IIA(Independent Investigating Authority) or local policing body to obtain or preserve evidence (see [paragraph 14B, Schedule 3](#) of the Police Reform Act 2002).

Under the Police Reform Act 2002, Schedule 3, [paragraphs 4\(1\)\(a\), 13\(1\)\(a\) & 14C\(1\)](#)(as amended by the [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, Schedule 12](#)), police forces in England & Wales have a statutory duty to refer any complaint or incident involving a DSI which has occurred during or following police contact to the IOPC, where there is an allegation or indication that direct or indirect police contact may have caused or contributed to the DSI.

- A complaint must be referred if it alleges that the conduct complained of resulted in a DSI.
- A conduct matter must be referred if the conduct matter relates to any incident or circumstances, in or in consequence of which, any person has died or suffered

serious injury.

- All DSI matters (as defined within this guidance) must be referred.

The [European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\) Article 2](#) imposes a duty on the state to conduct an effective official investigation when individuals have been subject of a DSI as a result of the use of force by the police. According to the ECHR, the investigation must:

- be on the state's own initiative (for example, not civil proceedings)
- be independent, institutionally and in practice
- be adequate & capable of determining whether the force used was justified in the circumstances & leading to the identification & accountability of those responsible
- be prompt
- allow for sufficient public scrutiny to ensure accountability
- allow the next of kin to participate – see [Jordan v UK \(2001\) 37 EHRR 2](#)

Procedures involving Death or Serious Injury (DSI)

Investigations may be conducted a force PSD or IIA (e.g IOPC, HSE)

Aim is to ensure that the applicable law is followed & implemented

Also to ensure accountability when the law has not been properly followed & implemented. E.g through disciplinary &/or criminal proceedings



Investigations may be conducted by a force PSD or IIA, such as the IOPC in England & Wales, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland or, in Scotland, under arrangements set out by the Police Investigations Review Commissioner (PIRC). The Health & Safety Executive may also undertake investigations.

Effective investigation

The aims of a DSI investigation are to:

- ensure that the applicable law is properly followed & implemented
- ensure accountability when the law has not been properly followed & implemented, for instance through disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings

Independent investigations

The scope of the investigation is likely to be wide ranging. It will include establishing the facts & drawing conclusions in respect of the DSI, the circumstances leading up to the DSI & all the issues surrounding it, such as police activity, management & planning.

Investigative function

Following a DSI, the police service should first take all appropriate steps to reduce any possible investigative risks and deficiencies, such as failure to secure evidence. The procedures adopted should demonstrate integrity in all actions & discussions between the officers and staff involved, & must be able to withstand scrutiny.

The responsibility for securing evidence & taking appropriate action in an Article 2 investigation remains with the police service until the IIA takes over the investigation. The responsibility of the police force being investigated is to facilitate the investigation through, for example:

- identifying and preserving scenes and exhibits
- identifying immediately available witnesses
- securing physical evidence
- providing experienced family or witness liaison officers

The IIA should be notified without delay. This will enable them to adopt appropriate procedures and agree initial actions required by the police at an early stage.

Post Incident Procedures (PIPS)

PIPS need to ensure that investigations are conducted in a manner which :-

Ensures the integrity of the legal process in respect of police action, persons arrested or evidential material seized

Enables follow –up action related to any ongoing crime

Identifies any operational or safety-critical issues in respect of procedures, training or equipment used

Ensures individual, team & organisational learning takes place & is addressed locally & nationally as appropriate

Post –incident investigations will commence in all situations where, following contact with the police a DSI occurs



Post-incident is the period after a DSI, where the criteria for the implementation of a post-incident investigation has been met and an investigation into police action or inaction is to be conducted. It is not possible to identify or prescribe a time limit after which a DSI occurs and a PIP may be implemented. Any decision should therefore be based on the circumstances and nature of the investigation.

The associated procedure is scalable and, while all elements of the procedure should be considered, it may not be necessary to apply them every time. This will depend on the circumstances, significance and consequences of the event.

Where a DSI occurs, regardless of whether force has been used, PIPs need to ensure that investigations are conducted in a manner which:

- ensures the integrity of the legal process in respect of police action, persons arrested or evidential material seized
- enables follow-up action related to any ongoing crime
- identifies any operational or safety-critical issues in respect of procedures, training or equipment used
- ensures individual, team and organisational learning takes place and is addressed locally and nationally, as appropriate

There are a number of roles with specific responsibilities within a PIP which are described in this guidance. These are:

- initial investigating officer (IIO)

- investigator from an IIA or force PSD
- chief officer (or delegated senior officer)
- force duty officer (FDO)
- post-incident manager (PIM)
- appointed officer

The responsibilities of those listed above are outlined in [post-incident responsibilities](#).

There are additional roles that are relevant to a PIP, for which specific responsibilities are not described within this guidance (for example, federation, staff associations, trade unions and legal advisers).

The [National Decision Model](#) provides a structure to address post-incident issues and can be used as a structure for any debrief process (see [debriefing](#)).

Early consideration should be given to:

- the impact of the incident on those affected, their family and the community (see [community impact assessment](#))
- media management (see [media releases](#))
- the nature of any debrief to be undertaken
- the requirement for an explanation and/or, where appropriate, an apology to the people affected

The appropriateness and sequence of the above issues will depend on the circumstances

Post-incident investigations will commence in all situations where, following contact with the police, a DSI occurs (these will ordinarily be subject to mandatory referral to the IIA). Where it is unclear whether the actions or inactions of the police have caused or contributed to the DSI, it will be prudent to consult with the IIA.

In DSI incidents that have revealed failings in operational command or supervision, or have caused danger to officers, staff or the public, consideration should be given to informing the IIA to provide an opportunity for independent scrutiny where appropriate.

If the above criteria are not met, the force should still consider the proportionate application of these procedures, where appropriate.

Where a DSI has resulted following police contact, it is in the interests of the public, police and everyone involved in the incident for all subsequent procedures to be open, transparent and demonstrate integrity of all actions.



Trainers to handout 'Media Do's and Don'ts' and 'Digital Services Do's and Don't's'



