

SP0117

Investigations

SP Identification Number SP0117

Policy Ownership ACC Crime Operations

Initial Publication 30/03/2017

Review Cycle 5 Years

Amended 28/06/2018

Reviewed 24/04/2023

Classification **OFFICIAL**
[PUBLIC]

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to conducting effective investigations, contributing to how we Keep People Safe.

1. Policy Statement

Where an offence has been committed, police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) have a statutory duty under Section 32 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 to take measures to bring offenders to justice. Police are primarily responsible for determining what measures should be taken in each case.

Investigators will follow the Code of Practice to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act (1996) as well as guidance set out in the PSNI Code of Ethics for Police Investigations and the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice for Investigation, for example. More complex investigations require investigators with appropriate range of specialist skills, experience and training. The investigation should have the ability to deal with the full range of serious criminality presented. Specialist investigators will follow specific national manuals of guidance where appropriate.

To ensure that there is confidence in our investigative processes, it is essential that our actions are fair, impartial and conducted in accordance with the law. In return, the PSNI seeks support from the community through reporting crimes and

providing evidence or information where they can.

Police investigative resources are finite. This reality must be acknowledged and available resources must be balanced against overall workload demand at any given time. Where difficult decisions have to be made regarding allocation of investigative efforts, we will focus on current, most significant threat, risk and harm, using our professional judgement to select those information or intelligence led lines of enquiry we assess as having the most reasonable prospects of success. We will conduct this exercise with due recognition of our legal obligations and as far as practicable to maintain confidence in policing.

The PSNI recognise our responsibilities regarding legacy issues whilst equally recognising the impact such issues have amongst victims, families and communities. We continue to seek a structured and coherent approach to dealing with the past enabling the PSNI to concentrate primarily on keeping people safe today.

Collaborative working will enable us to enhance the investigative response and contribute to positive, prompt, visible and fair outcomes for victims, witnesses,

communities and Northern Ireland as a whole.

We will work in partnership with other law enforcement agencies to address serious and organised crime, our aim being to frustrate, disrupt and / or dismantle the activities of existing and emerging organised crime groups.

Where it has been identified that issues within the remit of Police have had an adverse effect on proceedings in respect of serious crime cases within the Crown Court, consideration may be given to conducting a review to identify issues and to record lessons learnt.

2. Policy Links

The Corporate Policy Framework refers.

3. Contact

If you have any comment to make on the content of this Service Policy please contact: C2HOBAdmin@psni.police.uk.