

POLICY – Investigations

Number: H 0600

Date Published: 16 July 2020

Version 1 – July 2020

1.0 Summary of Changes

This is a new policy aimed at all officers and staff explaining the approach to recording and managing roads policing based investigations.

2.0 What this Policy is About

This policy explains how Essex Police will approach the policing of the roads in respect of investigations and should be read in conjunction with H 0100 Policy – Roads Policing.

It is aimed at all officers and staff involved in recording of collisions or conducting roads policing based investigations.

All investigations must be conducted in line with the following Authorised Professional Practice:

- APP – Road policing Investigation of fatal and serious injury road collisions
- APP – Investigation

The main aims of the policy and its associated procedures are to ensure that all collisions and other road policing investigations are:

- Appropriately recorded in line with:
 - The Department for Transport STATS20 Administrative System
 - Home Office Crime Recording and National Standard for Incident Recording
- Conducted effectively and proportionately;
- Managed and finalised in a consistent manner considering all appropriate means of disposal.

Compliance with this policy and any linked procedures is mandatory.

3.0 Statement of Policy

Essex Police is committed to the proper recording of collisions, the investigation of all roads policing matters and bringing offenders to justice.

3.1 Collision Recording

Through this policy, and its associated procedures, Essex Police will ensure the appropriate recording of collisions as it is important to:

- Prioritise effective investigation of collisions in line with the College of Policing's Code of Ethics;
- Inform the public of the scale, scope and risk on the County's roads;

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- Allow the Department for Transport, the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Essex Police and Safer Essex Roads Partnership to build intelligence collision data necessary for an efficient and effective response and to understand the extent of demands made on them and the associated costs of service delivery;
- Inform the development of Government policy to reduce Killed and Seriously Injured Collisions and to establish whether those policies are effective;
- Identify collision trends;
- Inform performance measurement and comparison;
- Enable the impact of various casualty reduction initiatives to be evaluated.

3.2 Investigation of Collisions and Roads Policing Matters

Through this policy, and its associated procedures, Essex Police will ensure:

- A clearly defined and structured process for investigations with the specific aim of reducing killed and seriously injured collisions, crime, bringing offenders to justice and improving public confidence;
- All categories of reported crime/collision receive a level of investigation proportionate to the offence and circumstances;
- Overall performance is improved by conducting an assessment of each report to determine the most appropriate resource to manage and undertake the investigation;
- To provide clear instruction to police officers and staff as to the method of investigation of all reported matters;

Dealing with victims is a key priority and Essex Police will always provide a caring and effective response to victims of crime or those who have been injured as a result of another drivers behaviour which amounts to careless or dangerous driving; particularly those identified as being 'vulnerable' or who have an enhanced entitlement under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, October 2015 (see B 2505 Procedure - Dealing with Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses within the Criminal Justice System).

Essex Police will ensure the people of Essex are reassured, kept informed of progress and are treated with the utmost compassion and understanding.

Investigations will be conducted by qualified staff and in accordance with the aims and principles of the Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP). The aim of the PIP is to ensure that officers and staff are trained, skilled and accredited to conduct the highest quality investigations.

3.3 Police Vehicle Incidents

In addition to the principles set out already the recording and investigation of police vehicle incidents within Essex will be consistent and in line with the College of Policing Code of Ethics ensuring proper scrutiny by additional commitments on recording and level of investigation.

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4.0 Implications of the Policy

4.1 Finance / Staffing / Training / Other

Through adoption of national policies and its continued work through the Safer Essex Roads Partnership the Force will obtain best value from its roads policing resources.

The Head of Roads Policing is responsible for the delivery of all aspects of roads policing within Essex. Though officers and staff within the Roads Policing Department are primarily responsible for dealing with Roads Policing matters; all police officers within Essex Police have a responsibility to the delivery of this policy.

All police officers and operational staff that investigate collisions are trained to PIP level 1. Officers within the Serious Collision Investigation Unit are trained to PIP level 2 and ICIDP accredited.

Officers that lead on investigations that involve fatalities or life-threatening injuries are accredited Lead Investigating Officers (LIO) previously referred to as Road Death Senior Investigating Officers.

Roads Policing Officers are all trained to a minimum standard as represented in the Roads Policing Skills Index.

4.2 Risk Assessment(s)

This policy is compliant with the requirements of Health & Safety legislation. Risk assessments concerning specific activity undertaken by officers and members of police staff are included within the procedures associated with this policy document.

4.3 Equality Impact Assessment

- EIA – June 2020

5.0 Consultation

The following have been consulted during the formulation of this document:

- Unison
- Police Federation
- Health & Safety
- Strategic Change Team
- PSD Superintendent
- Policy/Risk
- Superintendents Association
- Strategic Force Crime & Incident Registrar
- Information Management
- Head of OPC
- Practical Skills Training Manager

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- Detective Inspector, Serious Collision Investigation Unit, Roads Policing
- Head of Transport Services
- Insurance Officer, Corporate Finance, Business Services

6.0 Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by, or on behalf of, the Head of Roads Policing, Operational Policing Command every 12 months to ensure that the content is in line with current legislation and accurately reflects best practice.

7.0 Related Force policies or related procedures

- H 0100 Policy – Roads Policing
- H 0200 Policy – Pursuit
- H 0400 Policy – Road Incident Management
- H 0500 Policy – Road Related Engagement & Enforcement – pending
- H 0700 Policy – Vehicle Recovery
- B 0100 Policy – Recording of Incidents and Crimes
- B 0600 Policy – Investigation of Crime
- D 2000 Policy – Safe Driving

7.1 Data Security

Essex Police have measures in place to protect the security of your data in accordance with our Information Management Policy – W 1000 Policy – Information Management.

7.2 Retention & Disposal of Records

Essex Police will hold data in accordance with our Records Review, Retention & Disposal Policy – W 1012 Procedure/SOP - Records Review, Retention and Disposal.

We will only hold data for as long as necessary for the purposes for which we collected. Victims/public should be reminded that Essex Police take the protection of personal data seriously as described in the privacy notice <https://www.essex.police.uk/hyg/fpnessex/privacy-notice/>.

8.0 Other source documents, e.g. legislation, Authorised Professional Practice (APP), partnership agreements (if applicable)

- National Police Chiefs Council (2018) Policing our Roads Together: A 3-year strategy 2018 – 2021
- Authorised Professional Practice – APP – Roads Policing
- Authorised Professional Practice – APP - Investigation
- EIA – June 2020

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Policy Author:

Policy Owner: