

It is clear that every crime is unique and will have its own particular solvability factors that an investigator would naturally navigate through in determining the course of an investigation.

The following is a list of solvability factors (not exhaustive) that have been used by Kent Police:

- Is the victim prepared to support police action?
- Is there a named suspect at the time of the allocation?
- Is there a readily identifiable suspect?
- Is there identification evidence available?
- Is the crime linked to one or more crimes?
- Are there any co-operative witnesses?
- Is there relevant CCTV available?
  - Has it been viewed?
  - Does it actually show the offence?
  - What is the quality of it – would you be able to recognise the offender?
  - Is it available?
- Is there police officer evidence available?
- Was forensic evidence retrieved from the scene or the victim?
- What was the interval between the incident and the report?
- Is there identifiable property?
- Is there intelligence available?
- Is there an identified vehicle?
- Is the victim a repeat victim?
- Is there phone evidence available?

Solvability should not be the sole reason as to whether an investigation should proceed; there is also the public interest to take into account, which can include:

- Has the same suspect previously committed offences against the same victim?
- If the suspect is known, are they a repeat suspect?
- If the suspect is known, are they on current police bail, court bail, or prison licence?
- If the suspect is known, do they have relevant warning markers, for example, VISOR?
- Does the suspect hold a position of trust in respect of the victim?
- Has the victim been the subject of 3 or more offences in the last rolling year?
- Does the victim's intelligence record indicate any relevant warning markers?
- Is the victim an 'enhanced victim' under the Victim Code, by reason of intimidation or vulnerability?

The over-arching documentation that dictates investigations can be found by referring to:

- NPIA – Practice advice on The Management of Priority and Volume Crime (2009)
- College of Policing – Authorised Professional Practice – Crime Investigation