



BRIEFING PAPER

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POLICE SCOTLAND RESPONSE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY HOTLINE – OPERATION CONCRETE

1. Purpose

To provide Divisional Commanders and Detective Superintendents with an overview of the process to be adopted, should any reports be received of a sexual nature, out with E Division.

2. Background

Following recent reports and widespread media coverage of inappropriate / sexual conduct, involving members of the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament took the decision to set up a confidential hotline. This hotline was launched on Monday 6 November and provides coverage Monday to Friday, 0900 – 1700 hours. The staff for this hotline have been trained by a local University.

The purpose is to provide members /staff / contractors with a point of contact, who will signpost them to support agencies and the police, where appropriate. The Parliament already have a counselling service which provides 24/7 cover.

CSU [REDACTED], Head of Parliamentary Security, [REDACTED], Parliamentary Liaison Officer PI [REDACTED] and DSU [REDACTED] all met today, to finalise what is in place with the Parliament and the process which Police Scotland will adopt.

The hotline will not report matters direct to the police as a third party, instead their staff will signpost the caller to contact '999' for an emergency, '101' for a non-emergency or alternatively approach the Scottish Parliament Policing Unit, direct. It is not anticipated that many approaches will be made via the unit, instead it is anticipated that individuals will opt to report matters, from a private environment.

3. Police Response

- Should a report be received by the Parliamentary Policing Unit direct, officers from this unit will complete an IBR and pass this to the local (E Division) PPU for assessment and allocation (arrangements are in place to provide this unit

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with refresher training with regards to the initial response to reports of a sexual / inappropriate nature, this will include the completion of the IBR).

- If the enquiry does not however relate to E Division, then PPU staff will forward the enquiry to DSU [REDACTED] who will forward to the relevant divisional DSU for allocation and enquiry.
- Calls received by '999' or '101' will be allocated via the ACR as per the current protocol, these calls should be headed under 'Operation Concrete' when it is known from the outset that it relates to either members / staff of the Scottish or UK Parliaments.
- Divisional officers will obtain an IBR as per the current protocols and liaise with their local PPU, who will ensure their divisional DSU is aware and that E Division have been updated.
- Reports received via front counters or by local officers, will follow normal protocol in terms of obtaining an IBR before passing to their local PPU, who again will ensure their divisional DSU is aware and that E Division have been updated.
- Local divisions will maintain responsibility for safety measures / suicide intervention strategies, as required.
- E Division, DSU [REDACTED] should be contacted direct with regards to community impact and media considerations, as this will be conducted in conjunction with the Scottish Parliament and COPFS.
- The following officers from E Division PPU, will act as the points of contact for all collation:
DS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and DS [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
- A spreadsheet of all enquiries will be maintained by E Division with restricted access. This will ensure that repeat perpetrators are easily identified.
- All SID Logs will be submitted under the header of 'Operation Concrete' and locked to the appropriate level.
- All disclosure considerations will be made in consultation with CSU [REDACTED] and DSU [REDACTED].
- A brief will be provided to COPFS highlighting the process adopted by Police Scotland and requesting a confidential reporting mechanism for police report submissions.
- Internal Communications of the process will be publicised on the Force Intranet, in due course.

4. Conclusion

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