

BRIEF GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH IDENTIFIED PROLIFIC AND PRIORITY OFFENDERS

1.0 Introduction

This document is a 'cut down' version of more formal strategy documents and is designed to give practical advice to officers dealing with Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs)

2.0 Investigation

Front line supervisors have a key role to ensure their officers are properly directed and led in order to bring prolific and priority offenders to justice. This should be achieved by:

- Directing the investigation.
- Realising opportunities to exercise PACE Section 18 searches to exploit forensic capture opportunities.
- Realising opportunities to exercise PACE Section 18 searches to obtain evidence linked to that or such other offences.
- Directing the interview strategy and planning.
- Managing police bail to minimise the time delay from evidence gathering to charge.
- Securing, early legal advice from the CPS by use of the Shadow Charging Scheme.
- Taking responsibility for the conduct of the investigation.
- Directing the gathering of intelligence in accordance with the force/BCU Strategic Intelligence Requirement.

ACTIONS

CUSTODY

The arresting officer or custody staff should –

- complete a PNC and GENIE check to establish if the person has a warning marker that identifies them as a PPO or suspect for other offences.
- notify the divisional PPO team of any identified PPO coming into custody.
- inform the Duty Supervisor should be informed immediately.

DUTY SUPERVISOR

On identification of a PPO the duty supervisor should –

- actively participate in and take responsibility for the conduct of the on-going investigation and ensure there is an early assessment of the investigation and likely outcomes.

- If a scene has been identified and secured liaison should take place with a forensic investigator to secure all forensic opportunities.
- Contact should be made with both the duty inspector and the Divisional PPO team to inform them of the arrest.

ARRESTING OFFICER

The arresting officer should -

- contact the Intelligence Unit and PPO Manager to obtain a full record of past history relating to the offender. This should include all bail history, previous offending history on form MG16, review of similar M.O's etc.
- A handover file will be required in all cases and should include the (above) papers for consideration by CPS on first appearance at court.

OFFICER IN CASE & SUPERVISOR

Depending on the seriousness of the offence,

- liaison should take place with the Duty Detective Inspector regarding the fast track of forensic evidence.
- a thorough investigation should be completed.
- a Victim Personal Statement will be obtained where appropriate and included in the case papers to be forwarded to CPS.
- consideration should be given to holding a Video Identification during the period the offender is in custody.
- early liaison should take place with the nominated CPS representative. Outside CPS hours advice should be sought through the CPS Direct Scheme.
- where a victim declines to support a prosecution on the grounds of fearing retribution the case should be referred to CPS to determine whether a prosecution is nevertheless possible.

POST CHARGE

In dealing with PPO's

- the custody officer will always consider whether bail is appropriate -starting point for custody officers for PPO cases is that bail is unlikely to be appropriate. When bail is granted appropriate bail conditions will always be considered.
- the officer in the case will ensure that the letters PPO are written on the MG1 and every copy of the charge sheet as a prefix to the URN number.
- Officer in the case should make contact with CJSU regarding additional evidence required for court.

- Officer in the case to liase with nominated CPS lawyer regarding future evidential requirements and submissions.
- Any breach of bail conditions/curfew should be dealt with pro-actively through the daily tasking process and the offender should be arrested and placed back before the court as soon as possible. This also applies to a PPO who breaches an A.S.B.O.
- PPOs who are wanted on warrant should be dealt with through the daily tasking process within 3 days from receipt of the warrant from court.