



## **Foreign Force Enquiries Policy**

This document is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable Personnel and the functions provided by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner are required to adhere.

### **Policy Statement**

The aim of this policy is to clearly set out when enquiries will be undertaken on behalf of other forces when requests are made to North Yorkshire Police (NYP). As technology has advanced and legislation has changed alternative methods exist in which forces may complete enquiries which do not require NYP to allocate a resource on their behalf.

The objective is to ensure that NYP allocate resources effectively to ensure that we work with other forces to meet the needs of the public but that we do not undertake enquiries which could be completed by the requesting force through other means.

NYP is committed to managing risk and reducing harm to the residents of North Yorkshire.

### **NOTE: Exception to Policy re Scotland**

This policy does not apply to requests from Police Scotland in relation to road traffic matters. The law in Scotland requires that where a motorist fails to respond to a NIP for a speeding offence it is necessary to visit the registered keepers address in order to continue with that prosecution. The Procurator Fiscal in Scotland requires corroborated evidence of the accused's identification by two witnesses and will not commence any proceedings until they are satisfied this is available. This is a significant difference to English and Welsh law where it is not necessary to have such an enquiry undertaken and a trial in absence and conviction is possible.

Therefore where a suspected offender resides in England or Wales, Police Scotland will request the home force carry out this enquiry. This process does not require two police officers, but in fact can be carried out by one police officer along with another police witness, such as a member of police staff or PCSO for example. The actual enquiry takes the form of a pro-forma response which is completed by the police officer and countersigned for evidential corroboration by the second witness.

### **Process**

When requests are made by other Forces to NYP this policy will be applied by the Force Control Room (FCR) at the point the request is made.

NYP will support other forces with enquiries which carry an immediate or significant risk of harm. Requests should be made by way of email enquiry to [forcecontrolroom@northyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:forcecontrolroom@northyorkshire.police.uk) Where multi-agency transfers are available between command and control systems they should be utilised.

Any request with immediate or significant harm may be passed via telephone to action straight away. All requests should provide sufficient detail to allow the accurate assessment of risk and prioritise accordingly.

NYP will review all requests received from other Forces and will make a decision on whether or not to action the request based on the following criteria.

In all cases where requests have been made, particularly in relation to arrests, interviews and statements, NYP will carry out a THRIVE assessment. Based on the seriousness of this assessment, consideration will be given regarding how many attempts will be made in order to resolve the matter. If unsuccessful after taking all reasonable steps based upon our THRIVE assessment, we will then update the foreign force OIC, and close the incident.

However, NYP will not deploy officers to make the following enquiries:

- checking Driving documentation
- obtaining witness statements for non-fatal road traffic collisions
- interviewing or reporting suspects (including companies) in respect of non-fatal road traffic enquiries, unless there are serious aggravating factors
- establishing the ownership of a vehicle (unless urgent based on THRIVE assessment)
- confirming the driver of a vehicle had permission granted by the owner/registered keeper
- charging offenders in relation to matters under investigation by another Force
- for enquiries relating to drive offs/bilking's
- for personal service of a summons or Notice of Intended Prosecution (excluding Scotland)
- the issue of Police Information Notices (Harassment Warnings)
- non-urgent crime enquiries
- completing any other enquiry where deployment of an officer cannot be justified

If the request/enquiry relates to a task that would normally be carried out by a specialist officer/unit in the originating force then contact should be made directly with the corresponding specialist unit in NYP in order to facilitate the request.

Where requests are made via email which fit into the above list, the request will not be actioned. An automatic response will be delivered to the requesting force which will explain that the matter will not be actioned and will be deleted.

Where requests are received via telephone or multi-agency transfer a contact record will be required on Storm and the requesting person informed that we will not action their request.

Where a decision is made to action the request, a Police generated activity log will be created, the requesting force will be given the incident number and the log will be passed to dispatch to action.

NYP would request our neighbouring forces consider deployment of their own resources should an enquiry be a relatively short distance across the force boundary prior to making a request of NYP.

All enquiries that are within an acceptable travelling time will likely be returned to the sending force with apologies due to increasing demand on local policing resources.

This policy has been created to ensure that front line officers do not become unnecessarily engaged in dealing with tasks that can be addressed easily by post or telephone.

Where requests are declined and the originating force would like to explore the decision further contact can be made with the duty Force Incident Manager or Deployment Manager to discuss the request.

The below message will be automatically sent when an email is received by the FCR email inbox.

*Thank you for contacting North Yorkshire Police.*

*Our force control room email inbox is monitored 24 hours a day; however during busy periods there could be a significant delay before emails are read. We endeavour to respond to your enquiry as soon as possible.*

*In an effort to assist other forces and outside agencies, as well as to improve continuity of service to North Yorkshire residents and to external partners, we have undertaken a review of what requests/enquiries we are able to carry out on their behalf.*

*We kindly ask that prior to making requests; external forces/partners should consider the necessity and urgency of a personal visit by a police officer and whether alternative means are more appropriate such as a postal enquiry or request. Please see the following list of enquiries that North Yorkshire Police will no longer routinely carry out:*

- *Checking Driving documentation*
- *Obtaining witness statements for non-fatal road traffic collisions*
- *Interviewing or reporting suspects (including companies) in respect of non-fatal road traffic enquiries, unless there are serious aggravating factors*
- *Establishing the ownership of a vehicle (unless urgent based on THRIVE assessment)*
- *Confirming the driver of a vehicle had permission granted by the owner/registered keeper*
- *Charging offenders in relation to matters under investigation by another Force*
- *For enquiries relating to drive offs/bilking's*
- *For personal service of a summons or Notice of Intended Prosecution (excluding Scotland)*
- *The issue of Police Information Notices (Harassment Warnings)*
- *Non-urgent crime enquiries*
- *Completing any other enquiry where deployment of an officer cannot be justified*

*NYP would request that our neighbouring forces consider deployment of their own resources should an enquiry be a relatively short distance across the force boundary prior to making a request of NYP. All enquiries that are within an acceptable travelling time will likely be returned to the sending force with apologies due to increasing demand on local policing resources.*

*Thank You.*

## **Linkages**

Incident Management and Deployment Procedure