



Safe Crewing Procedure

This procedure is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable personnel and the functions provided by the Deputy Mayor for Policing as part of the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority are required to adhere.

Procedure Statement

Deployment of marked police vehicles and uniform foot patrols increases police visibility and public reassurance as well as ensuring the effective allocation and deployment of police resources. To maximise this, the 'single-crewing' of patrols is the default position adopted by North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

'Double-crewing' where there is no operational need is an inefficient use of resources. Conversely, management decisions as to when officers should patrol on their own, which are not based on credible risk assessment are likely to have a detrimental effect on officer safety.

The aim of this procedure is to safeguard the health and safety of police officers and staff engaged in day-to-day patrol and response duties by identifying the relevant risk factors to be considered when making a management decision as to whether 'double-crewing' is appropriate.

This procedure will enable supervisors and Force Control Room (FCR) staff to take objective and reasoned decisions relating to the pairing or grouping of officers in their operational deployment and will assist where decisions need to be made in respect of the allocation of resources to incidents.

This procedure applies to police officers and special constables (who have been assessed as competent to patrol independently), engaged in day-to-day patrol and response activity but not to pre-planned operations which should be subject to separate risk assessment. The analysis and assessment of risk factors which has been undertaken is applicable only to the routine patrol activities undertaken by sworn officers and the tasks they are required to address through the exercise of their powers, particularly in relation to conflict situations. It does not apply to non-sworn staff or specialist or ancillary functions such as PCSOs, dog units, crime scene investigators and others who undertake differing tasks and responsibilities.

Policy/Procedures:

Public-Assistance-Grading-and-Dispatch-Policy

Other Documents:

Officer and Staff Safety Review

Process

This procedure has been created with consideration to the NPCC Officer Safety Review 2020 which can be accessed via the above link and which contains a section specifically on crewing.

For most incidents officers are allocated to, especially those that are not ongoing, a single crewed response is proportionate to carry out an investigation into the circumstances reported. Officers will also be expected to conduct routine patrols on foot, or in vehicles, to maximise visibility and availability to the public, as well as increasing response flexibility and geographical area coverage.

If, following a dynamic risk assessment it is determined that, in the interests of officer or subject safety, multiple officers are required to respond to the incident, FCR Dispatchers and/or area supervisors will allocate a number of officers that are proportionate to the circumstances. However, by default, these attending officers are still to respond separately, and are to only 'double crew' in exceptional circumstances.

The following is offered as guidance to supervisors and controllers as factors to be considered when assessing the appropriate deployment or response to some of the more regular calls for police attendance which may require either multiples of single crewed units, or a double crewed response:

- alarm calls to premises that may be likely targets for robbery.
- any call where there was an indication of violence or aggression.
- domestic incidents with both parties present.
- any call where there is information from alarm companies that intruders are believed to be on the premises.
- road traffic collisions in hazardous locations which require two or more officers to attend to maintain safety.
- the availability of 'backup' is an important factor when deciding on deployment. Isolated locations may sometimes present higher risk to officers due to geographic constraints on the availability of back up.
- community tension indicators.
- specific or general intelligence as to potential threats or risk.
- previous caller history.

Response vehicle availability

If there are fewer vehicles than there are officers, operational necessity may lead an area supervisor to authorise double-crewing in order to maximise incident attendance times and the completion of ongoing investigation workloads. When authorising double-crewing supervisors are to have considered the availability of pool cars, or vehicles ordinarily used by other areas of business, along with requirements for foot patrols and local taskings.

Police Tactics

It is emphasised that risk assessments must be dynamic and subject to regular re-assessment in light of constantly changing factors throughout any period of duty. If officers are double-crewed, they must revert to single-crewed status, once the requirement for having been double-crewed is no longer applicable. In circumstances where risks are assessed, as significant then dynamic risk assessments may need to be recorded by FCR operators, supervisors or managers in line with force Risk Assessment Guidance. Supervisors and managers have a responsibility to optimise resources whilst taking into account officer safety, at the commencement of each period of duty they should undertake a risk assessment based on the identified risk factors and instruct their officers as to the crewing position. Cognisance should be taken of:

- time of day and officer fitness for single crewed duty.
- location (urban/rural)
- experience and local knowledge of officers
- support mechanisms in place and readily available at the time, i.e., RPG, Dogs, Operational Support Unit (OSU)
- generic nature of tasking, e.g., patrol/response/arrest detail.
- the number and proximity of other officers on patrol or otherwise available to assist.

Individual officers share responsibility with supervisors and managers for ensuring the most effective deployment of resources by maintaining the default single crewing position unless instructed otherwise and assisting in dynamic risk assessment through the provision of relevant information to managers and supervisors where appropriate.

FCR staff share the responsibility of maintaining optimal deployment of resources and maintaining officer safety by dispatching appropriate resources to incidents in accordance with the risk assessed from the information known at the time and ensuring that all available sources of information relevant to that incident and risk assessment are researched and information communicated to the officers attending. This would include domestic violence data, firearms, PNC etc.

Responsibilities

As outlined above.

Definition of Special Terms N/A