



Major and Serious Crime Attendance Procedure

This procedure 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.

Procedure Statement

This procedure has been devised in order to ensure that appropriately skilled officers initially attend and assess incident scenes, and also to ensure that appropriately qualified senior investigating officers are informed of, and take responsibility for such incidents, at the earliest practical stage. Opportunities to secure and preserve evidence must be fully exploited. Informed decisions must be made by those taking control of the initial investigation of such incidents in order to maximise the short and medium term evidence gathering opportunities.

Policies

[Information Security Policy](#)

[CCTV Investigation Policy and Procedure](#)

Procedures:

[Kidnap and Extortion Procedure](#)

[Investigation of Death](#)

[Major Crime Resourcing Procedure](#)

[Child Death Procedure](#)

[Property-and-Exhibits Procedure](#)

Process

In the event of any of the following:

- suspected homicide or any death where there are suspicious circumstances or where there is suspicion of crime
- road deaths involving a police vehicle, hit and run, or involving crime
- the death involves the use of a Firearm
- where death is due to fire
- persons in the custody of Her Majesty's Prison (HMP)
- sudden unexplained death of an infant/child
- any fire, criminal or suspicious, where injuries are life threatening or may prove fatal
- rape or attempted rape
- abduction or attempt abduction of a child

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- fatal industrial accidents
- food or product contamination
- armed robbery where a firearm is used

The Duty Detective Inspector must be notified by the control room. If after 03:00 hours, the Night Detective Sergeant on duty will be contacted in the first instance who can then consult with the on call SIO.

Attendance is mandatory for the following:

- suspected homicide or any death where there are suspicious circumstances, information / intelligence indicates the deceased is a victim of Domestic Abuse or where there is suspicion of any other crime
- the death involves the use of a Firearm
- where death is due to fire
- sudden unexplained death of an infant/child

Upon arrival, the Detective Inspector must ensure that:

- the scene has been identified and protected
- a log of scene attendance has been started and is being maintained

The Detective Inspector will make an assessment of the incident. Where necessary, they should inform the Detective Chief Inspector for Command in which the incident has occurred, (between 08:00 and 16:00 hrs). Out of hours, the On Call Senior Investigating Officer should be informed or if the Area DCI is unavailable.

They must also determine:

- the extent of enquiries and actions that have already been undertaken, at the point at which they were informed
- the measures required at the scene(s) to ensure that all forensic potential is retained. Also, the specialist resources required to examine and manage the scene(s), taking account of Crime Scene Management Procedures which is available on The Source under the subsection [Forensics](#) on the Crime Operation page.
- what are the priority actions and the resources required to undertake them (e.g. enquiry teams, house to house, exhibits, disclosure, family liaison, sex offence liaison)
- any action that can be taken to secure witnesses and potential sources of evidence, such as Closed-Circuit TV (CCTV), and to apprehend any suspects
- how policy decisions and high priority actions are to be recorded and retained
- if the deceased is under the age of 18 years old, please refer to [Child Death Procedure](#) for further guidance

All police staff and specialists used to progress the investigation must be properly briefed as to the circumstances of the incident and what is required of them.

Notwithstanding the above direction that the Duty DI is informed of specific incidents, the On Call SIO will be notified of any incident listed below.

The SIO will agree minimum investigative standards and consider attending:

- sudden or suspicious deaths if any of the following are applicable:
 - foul play or involvement of a third party in the causation of death cannot be eliminated
 - the body is hidden or decomposed
 - the death involves the use of a firearm or shotgun
 - the death involves an infant, under the age of 12 months old
 - the death occurs at a military establishment
 - the death is linked or connected to a fire
 - the death occurs in a police station, in police custody, in a prison or in prison service custody
 - road deaths involving a police vehicle, hit and run, or involving crime
- abductions
- kidnap or extortion
- stranger rape
- fatal industrial accidents
- food or product contamination – where it is accompanied by a threat or demand

The SIO is to be notified about serious or complex incidents of child sexual abuse where:

- The abuse has occurred in an institution such as school, sports team, place of worship etc.
- The abuse has been perpetrated by multiple suspects
- The case is likely to attract significant public interest and/or media coverage
- The case relates to a COM Group or Network.

After being briefed on the facts of the incident, the SIO will determine whether or not to attend the incident. In any event, the SIO will review the actions already taken at the scene and in the investigation. The SIO will advise/determine any other resources, lines of enquiry or fast track actions required.

In incidents where the deceased is under the age of 18 years old please refer to the [Child Death Procedure](#) for further guidance and the need to convene a Rapid Response Meeting with the relevant paediatrician.

The On Call SIO will attend where the incident is one of:

- Murder or suspected murder

- Manslaughter
- Death in police or prison custody
- Stranger Rape
- Assault which is life threatening
- Child Abduction
- Kidnap
- Terrorism

The Duty Force Control Room Inspector must:

- ensure that the on-duty DI is aware of and attends the incidents listed
- ensure that the duty or On Call SIO is called in the circumstances detailed

