

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme					
Protective Marking:	Not Protectively Marked		Publication (Y/N):	Y	
Title:	Homicide and Unexplained Death Policy				
Summary:	This policy introduces procedures for the investigation of all homicides & unexplained deaths.				
Branch / OCU:	Specialist Crime & Operations 1 - Homicide and Major Crime.				
Date created:	July 2014	Review date:	July 2018	Version:	2.0
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## Application

- **When?** This Policy applies with immediate effect.
- **Who?** All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) or the Commissioner must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) policy and associated procedures.

This Policy applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles:  
(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- All borough operational police officers and staff that in their course of their duty deal or come into contact with homicide or unexplained death.
- Officers and police staff within Specialist Crime and Operations (SC&O), in particular Homicide and Major Crime (SC&O1),
- Line management within the SC&O who must ensure compliance with procedures encompassed as the Authorised Professional Practice (APP or revised doc title from College of Policing).
- **What?** SC&O1 will undertake the following reactive investigations:
  - all murder, manslaughter (where there is likely to be culpability for the loss of life) and infanticide offences;
  - interfamilial child homicide (including attempts);
  - deaths within the workplace or mass disaster where culpability for the loss of life is likely to be an issue in a criminal court;
  - attempted murder where the evidence of intent is unambiguous and where a risk assessment identifies substantive risk to life (see note below);

- high risk missing persons where there is a substantive reason to suspect life has been taken or is under threat;
- Linked series of two or more rapes, which are beyond the capability of one SOECA resources to manage (see note below); and
- Other critical incidents which, due to their serious nature, complexity or organisational risk or may require Holmes 2 support.

**NOTE:** Cases of attempted murder and linked series rape will not be investigated by the SC&O without authority of an SC&O detective superintendent following a presentation by the borough Senior Investigating Officer (SIO).

### **Policy Principles**

All suspicions or allegations of unexplained death or homicide will be recorded and fully investigated.

We will consider the five investigative building block principles of preserving life, preserving scenes, securing evidence, identifying victims and identifying suspects. This doctrine will be strictly followed in the investigation of all homicide and unexplained death.

SC&O1 command will work together with colleagues throughout the MPS, local authorities and other agencies to investigate homicide or unexplained death with the priority of making London a safer place.

All MPS staff will:

Consider the five investigative building block principles of preserving life, preserving scenes, securing evidence, identifying victims and identifying suspects. This doctrine will be strictly followed in the investigation of all homicide and unexplained death.

Consider the principles, guidance and good practice contained within relevant national Authorised Professional Practice.

Conduct such investigations within the knowledge and considerations of the local borough Commander.

Document all decision making processes, especially where there is a variance from guidelines; including actions taken and not taken, and options considered together with factors influencing a decision.

### **Purpose and Benefits**

The purpose of this policy is to formalise guidance and specify governance of procedures for all MPS staff in respect of the investigation of homicide or unexplained death. This will lead to:

- A continued rise in the professional standards across the MPS.
- An enhancement of the reputation of the MPS through continual demonstrations of procedural excellence by trained and informed MPS staff.
- Support and promotion for the Commissioner's vision of Total Policing.

### **Associated Documents and Policies**

ACPO Murder Investigation Manual 2006.

Authorised Professional Practice - Investigations.

Major Incident Room Standardised Administrative Procedures (Need to be registered with POLKA)

Police National Legal Database.

SC&O1 Homicide and Serious Crime

SOECA Sexual offences, Exploitation & Child abuse command

SC&O4 Directorate of Forensic Services

SC&O8 Trident Gang Crime Command

SC&O21 Crime Academy & Review Group

### **Notices to be Cancelled / Amended**

Cancel item 2, Notices 46/08, 12 November 2008