

Protective marking:	Not protectively marked
Publication scheme Y/N:	Yes
Title:	Investigative Interviewing Policy
Version:	Version 2
Summary:	An over-arching interview policy consolidating relevant policy and guidance relating to investigative interviewing in the MPS.
Branch/ OCU:	SCD20 - Crime Academy
Review date:	May 2016
Notice reference/ date:	Item 3, Notices 19/12, 9 May 2012

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Investigative Interviewing Policy

Introduction

This revised policy provides guidance in relation to investigative interviewing and brings together all relevant policies and operating procedures in that field.

It replaces the policy published at [item 1, Notices 10/08](#), which is now cancelled.

Application

This policy takes immediate effect.

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.

However, this policy applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles:

- Police Officers and Police Staff who conduct investigative interviews;
- First line managers of such interviews;
- Any police officers or police staff who assess interviews; and
- Police officers and police staff who design and deliver training in respect of criminal investigations and investigative interviewing.

Note: this list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Purpose

To enhance the standard of investigative interviewing within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), by improving the quality of service given to witnesses, including victims, by the MPS by enabling them to achieve their best evidence and trying to ensure that they are given greater access to the Criminal Justice system and thereby narrowing the justice gap.

To provide a single point of reference, for procedures and guidance relating to investigative interviewing.

Scope

An 'investigative interview' for the purpose of this policy is defined as follows:

- The questioning of a person regarding that person's involvement or suspected involvement in a criminal offence or offences which, under paragraph 10.1 of the PACE Codes of Practice, must be carried out under caution; or
- The obtaining of an account from a victim or witness in connection with an offence.

Witnesses who are 'vulnerable' or 'intimidated' may be subject to separate procedures provided by the [Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999](#).

The MPS also continues to use procedures for 'Significant witnesses' which are set out in Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) in criminal proceedings and guidance on using Special Measures (revised 2011).

This policy does not apply to Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) whose operational deployment is governed by [Special Notice 03 of 2005](#).

Policy Statement

The MPS policy on investigative interviewing is founded on the following principles and Home Office publication '*Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Guidance on Interviewing Victims and Witnesses, and using Special Measures*'

- The aim of investigative interviewing is to obtain accurate and reliable accounts from victims, witnesses or suspects about matters under police investigation.
- Investigators must act fairly when questioning victims, witnesses or suspects. Vulnerable people must be treated with particular consideration at all times.
- Investigative interviewing should be approached with an investigative mindset. Accounts obtained from the person who is being interviewed should always be tested against what the interviewer already knows or what can reasonably be established.