

GWENT POLICE

GWENT POLICE STRANGER RAPE and Rape Review POLICY



1.0 Aims of Policy

The aims of the policy in relation to the review of undetected stranger rape and detected rape offences are:

- To Improve the investigation of Rape and Serious Sexual Crime
- To identify opportunities to detect offences
- To learn lessons and to Improve the service to victims of rape and serious sexual offences
- Take effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the Justice System.
- Increase confidence in the Criminal Justice System
- To encourage more victims to report rape and serious sexual offences to the police.

1.1 Principle:

Gwent Police, in responding to Serious Sexual Offences, will ensure all victims receive a quality service at a level appropriate to the needs of the individual.

All investigations will be rigorously investigated and offenders held accountable through the Criminal Justice System without discrimination.

The review of undetected stranger rapes will provide opportunities to identify further lines of investigation that may lead to the identification of the

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perpetrator and hold them to account. The identification of the perpetrator may also lead to the identification of other similar offences.

The review of selected detected rape cases will provide useful information to ensure that best practice is identified and to ensure continuous improvement and development of services to victims.

Scope:

The policy will provide a framework for Senior Investigating Officers to conduct reviews and report on their findings in a structured format. The policy will also link in with the Home Office Rape Action Plan thereby providing a mechanism to measure continuous improvement.

2.0 The Legal Basis

The legal obligations underpinning the policy include the duties within the Human Rights Act and the European Convention of Human Rights 1951 (ECHR) to protect life and to protect individuals from inhuman and degrading treatment. Also the following Acts relate to sexual offences:-

[Sexual Offences \(Amendment\) Act 1976](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Amendment\) Act 1992](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Amendment\) Act 2000](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Conspiracy and Incitement\) Act 1996](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 1956](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 1967](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 1985](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 1993](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance

The policy has been checked for compliance with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts: the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme

This policy should aims to comply with the organisations Welsh language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the language scheme.

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5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

6.0 Identification Section

Policy Title: Stranger Rape and Rape Review Policy

Reference: 224/4 a issue 1

ACPO LEAD: ACC

Service Area Owner: Crime Investigation

Department Responsible: Serious Sexual Crime

Links to other Policies/Procedure: Serious Sexual Offences, Domestic Violence, Force Crime Strategy, NIM, Crime Recording, Data Protection, Information Security, Race Equality Scheme, Disability Equality Scheme, Victim Support Referral, Taking of Forensic Samples, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, Hate Crime, Health and Safety, Child Protection.

Policy Implementation Date: 20th July 2009

Policy Review Date:

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