

GWENT POLICE

GWENT POLICE EVENTS POLICY



1.0 Aims of Policy

The aim of this policy is to:-

- Ensure that Gwent Police provides an effective and measured response to Public Events on and off all Public highways.
- Comply with the ACPO Public Safety Policy 2009 and the Human Rights Act 1998 in ensuring all actions are proportionate, legal, accountable and necessary.
- To change the perception that the police are the lead agency for approving all public events, including those which take place on the public highway. (In reality, the police have no authority to either approve or ban events on the highway or elsewhere and police powers to regulate traffic for such planned events are extremely limited. Furthermore, the police have no general responsibility to preserve public safety at any public event, except where there are imminent or likely threats to life. This duty falls firmly upon the organisers).
- To aim to achieve a consistent police approach to all organised events staged in a public place and on any public highway throughout the Gwent Police Area;
- Provide a more focussed approach, and confine police action to those issues which are part of our core responsibilities and where there is legal authority;
- Encourage consultation, in order that public events can continue to take place by creating a robust process, between organisers, the Local Authority, Gwent Police and other agencies;
- Clarify the role and responsibilities of the police;
- Ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities.

- To encourage Borough and City Councils to establish a standing Safety Advisory Group (SAG) with representatives at officer level or Executives from the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Highways Authority and Police: it should be chaired by the Local Authority.
- To ensure opportunities for public engagement, on a Ward Officer level are maximised.

2. 0 Principles and Scope

2.1 The aim will be for SAG to act as the first point of reference for all those who are intending to organise a public event, on or off the highway. It will provide advice and guidance regarding the specific areas of responsibility for both the organisers and the other agencies involved and also refer to aspects of best practice for the information of the organisers.

2.2 There is no legal requirement for the organisers to refer events to the Group but it is hoped that local impetus can be generated to develop such referrals as best practice amongst organisers. Moreover, there is also no legal requirement for the organisers of a public event to comply with the advice and guidance given by the Safety Advisory Group. Where it becomes known that an event is planned which has not been referred to the Safety Advisory Group, the Police Service will make every effort to persuade the organisers to do so. However, where this approach is resisted and the event proceeds in such a manner where reasonable grounds exist to suggest that the risks caused by the event are within Police core responsibilities, we will take immediate action to mitigate the risks.

2.3 Prior to taking such action however, if practicable, a notice in writing, will be served on the organisers. This notice will detail the risks posed and the action to be taken by Police. It will clearly state that the action taken is intended to mitigate the hazard created by the organisers and in no way relieves them of their responsibility for the safety of the public involved in the event as either participants or spectators. [\[Please see example at Appendix A\).](#)

2.4 Assessment of the need for Police attendance and action at public events will be principally based on the need to discharge our core responsibilities which legal advice indicates are as follows:-

- (a) Prevention and detection of crime;
- (b) Preventing or stopping breaches of the peace;
- (c) Traffic regulation within the legal powers provided by statute, a Road Closure Order (TPCA 1847) or a Traffic Regulation Order (RTRA 1984).
However, police officers will not be used as part of a traffic management plan introduced in consequence of a closure order or

traffic regulation unless this is completely unavoidable (e.g. if the organiser cannot fulfil their legal obligation by any other means);

(d) Activation of a contingency plan where there is an immediate threat to life and co-ordination of resultant emergency service activities.

Note of caution - Legal opinion suggests that the responsibility for public safety rests with the organisers of an event, the owners of the land on which it takes place and possibly the Local Authority if the event takes place on a road. However, other persons or agencies who undertake actions regarding public safety at an event may assume a duty of care and, therefore, also become responsible.

The level of Police resources committed to an event and the action undertaken will be proportionate to the assessment of risks posed by the event. They will also be restricted to these core areas of Police responsibility.

Gwent Police will continue to provide a Neighbourhood Policing presence at the majority of events by introducing structured patrols into their local Neighbourhood Policing Patrol Strategy therefore allowing community engagement to maintain and increase public confidence.

However, Police resources will not be routinely deployed to tasks, which the risk assessment suggests are necessary but for which there are no legal responsibilities or legal powers.

The Event Planning Team (Operational Support) will coordinate charging for police services through consultation with Gwent Police Finance Department and the event organisers.

Where pre-planned public events are arranged on Police Owned Premises, for which all relevant public liability insurance is in place, it is accepted by the Force that a nominated member of Police staff may be required to take on the role of `Events Organiser` where suitably qualified to do so.(e.g The Police Open Day at HQ). In all other cases, the Police as the lead Emergency response agency will not undertake the role of `Event Organiser` or become involved in the application for road closures.

2.0 The Legal Basis

- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- Public Order Act 1986
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005
- Road Traffic Act 1998
- Traffic Management Act 2004

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE. A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE POLICIES SITE TO THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO THIS POLICY.

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Road Closure Order (TPCA 1847)
- Traffic Regulation Order (RTRA 1984).

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.

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: Events Policy

Reference: 108/3 a issue 3

ACPO LEAD: ACC Operations

Service Area Owner: Operational Support

Department Responsible: Events Planning Team

Links to other Policies/Procedure:

ACPO Public Safety Policy, 2009.

Critical Incident Policy,

Health and Safety,

Information Security,

Data Protection.

Gwent Police Road Closure Procedure. (currently under review)

ACPO/APA Guidance on Charging for Police Services

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme

Operational Order policy (currently under review)

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The guide to safety at sports grounds (Green Guide) (will link to web page)
The event safety guide (Purple Guide) (will link to web page)

Policy Implementation Date: 7th July 2010

Policy Review Date: Two years from approval



NOTICE TO ORGANISERS - CROWD AND EVENT SAFETY

TO ORGANISERS :-

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SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP AREA

DATE

TIME

NOTIFICATION OF MULTI AGENCY ACTIONS IN RELATION TO AN ORGANISED EVENT

It has come to our attention that the following event has been scheduled for the time and place shown:

Nature of the event; _____

Date, Time and Location; _____

We believe the organisers of the events to be; _____

We are concerned that the event will compromise public safety and we hereby give notice that the agencies intend to mitigate the risks as shown below:

Details of the threat to public safety; _____

APPENDIX A

Details of multi-agency actions in consequence of the risks; _____

The organiser/s are urged to make contact immediately with the local Safety Advisory Group at the following address;

Name, Address and Telephone No; _____

In any event, the organiser/s shown are hereby given notice that he/she/they is/are responsible for ensuring the safety of those participating in or attending the event described. The service of this notice should be viewed as an indication of the level of concern for the safety of those involved. This notification has been copied and will be made available at subsequent proceedings or hearings if necessary.

Signed;

Rank or Position;

Safety Advisory Group Area;

Date;

Time.