

GWENT POLICE

GWENT POLICE MISSING PERSONS POLICY



1.0 Aims of Policy

Gwent Police is committed to providing a highly professional service to its community in line with its statement of purpose, values, aims and standards.

The aim of this Policy is to direct police involvement in the management of Missing Person enquiries, taking into account best practice and the legal and moral responsibility of the police service to prevent and detect crime and maintain public safety. It also aims to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

This Policy is aimed at police staff having responsibility for the investigation of reports of Persons Missing and Found within Gwent Police. It demonstrates the commitment of Gwent Police to ACPO (2010) Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons.

Gwent Police is committed to reducing and detecting crime, and bringing offenders to justice. The investigation and resolution of Missing Person enquiries has been recognised as an area of business that presents a significant impact upon our communities.

Gwent Police supports the ACPO definition of a 'Missing Person', which is:-

“Anyone whose whereabouts are unknown whatever the circumstances of disappearance. They will be considered missing until located and their well being or otherwise established.”

The implementation of this policy and the COMPACT (Missing Persons) system recognises the need to keep unnecessary bureaucracy to a minimum, in order to maximise the time available for investigation of the enquiry. At the same time it facilitates the secure and speedy management of information, intelligence, instruction and investigation. Access to the COMPACT site can be obtained via the front page of the Force Intranet.

PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE.

2.0 The Legal Basis

Includes the duties within the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to protect life and protect persons from inhuman and degrading treatment. As well as the common law duty of the police to protect life and property and detect crime.

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: Missing Persons

Reference: 225-1 a issue 4

ACPO LEAD: ACC

Service Area Owner: Neighbourhood and Partnership

Department Responsible: Chief Inspector Silver Cadre

Links to other Policies/Procedure: Crime Recording, Data Protection, Information Security, Health and Safety, Hate Crime, Management of Cares Database, Victim Support Referral, Management of Victim Interview Suites, NIM, Single Equality Scheme.

Policy Implementation Date: Aug 2011

Policy Review Date: Aug 2013