

Missing Persons Policy Statement



Policy Number	68
Policy Owner	Head of Community Justice
Version	0.2
Last Review Date	August 2011
Next Review Date	August 2013
Date of SDG approval	November 2011
Protective Marking	Not Protectively Marked

This document has been assessed for:	
Compliance with Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Missing Persons Policy Statement

1. Policy statement

Missing person investigations should be regarded as a high-risk area of policing and given appropriate levels of priority and resources. Cleveland Police will conduct enquires into missing persons in accordance with the ACPO National Guidance Manual on the Management Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons 2nd Edition 2010.

The Human Rights Act 1998 places a positive obligation on police officers to take reasonable action, within their powers, to safeguard the rights of individuals who may be at risk. It is important that from the point of reporting through to return, that an assessment of risk associated to the missing person is conducted and regularly reviewed.

A multi agency problem solving approach is to be adopted especially in cases involving children and the vulnerable. This is especially important around returning procedures and information sharing to prevent further episodes of disappearance.

The vast majority of persons reported as missing will be found alive and well shortly after their disappearance. Only a small percentage will have come to any harm or have become a victim of crime. It is in light of these possibilities that the police must respond effectively to reports of missing persons, in order to identify those cases, which require substantially more attention.

It must, however, be remembered that every missing person report has the potential to become an investigation into serious crime or homicide. The police response therefore has to be the right one.