



Firearms Intelligence - Response

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Policy Holder	Head of Intelligence Directorate
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Approved by

Legal Services	7 September 2017
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Note: By signing the above you are authorising the policy for publication and are accepting responsibility for the policy on behalf of the Chief Constables.

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Note: Please send the original Policy with both signatures on it to the Norfolk CPU for the audit trail.

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Legal Basis

(Please list below the relevant legislation which is the legal basis for this policy). You must update this list with changes in legislation that are relevant to this policy and hyperlink directly to the legislation.

Legislation/Law specific to the subject of this policy document

Act (title and year)
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000
Criminal Procedure & Investigations Act 1996

Other legislation/law which you must check this document against (required by law)

Act (title and year)
Human Rights Act 1998 (in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination)
Equality Act 2010
Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated Regulations
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018
Freedom Of Information Act 2000
The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Other Related Documents

- Intelligence Recording Policies
- Firearms Policies

1. Introduction

- 1.1 It is imperative that information or intelligence relating to the possession and/or use of firearms is handled and actioned appropriately. The process to achieve this must be clear and robust, it must identify where responsibility for certain action rests.
- 1.2 This Policy details how information or intelligence relating to the possession and/or use of firearms will be dealt with within Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies.

2. Intelligence – General Information

- 2.1 Intelligence is an evaluated form of information. The 5x5x5 is a national intelligence report that allows information to be evaluated and so become intelligence. Please refer to the Intelligence Management section of Authorised Professional Practice (APP) and the relevant Force Policy on Intelligence/Information Reporting.
- 2.2 Intelligence can be provided to police from a number of sources. Some of these may be sensitive in nature e.g. Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) or from covert tactics and will require consideration to be given to protecting the source. Advice on this issue should be sought from the Area Intelligence Unit (AIU) or Central Intelligence Bureau (CIB)
- 2.3 The collection, retention and deletion of intelligence must comply with the Information Management section of APP.

3. Intelligence – Firearms

- 3.1 All firearms intelligence needs to be treated seriously and a thorough assessment is essential to fully understand any threat, risk or harm presented.

Where threat, risk or harm is assessed to be real and immediate, then the intelligence should be developed immediately in conjunction with an owner who can resource any response required.

Where no real or immediate threat, risk or harm is realised as a result of initial development, then a slower approach may be considered.

- 3.2 Where intelligence is received by the Constabularies that contain detail of possession of a firearm, regardless of what threat, risk or harm is presented, a supervisor must be made aware of the intelligence.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 The initial supervisor must immediately bring this intelligence to the notice of the Duty Inspector.
- 4.2 The Duty Inspector will determine if the intelligence requires an immediate police response. The assistance of the AIU or CIB should be considered in making a proper assessment. E4 intelligence (untested intelligence that cannot be judged) should not be interpreted as unreliable.
- 4.3 Where the Duty Inspector considers that the intelligence warrants an immediate police response they must bring this to the attention of the Duty Tactical Firearms Commander. Where no Duty Inspector is immediately available then the initial supervising officer must assess the intelligence, but should continue to seek guidance from the Duty Inspector.
- 4.4 Where the Duty Tactical Firearms Commander is of the opinion that no immediate response to the intelligence is required then the intelligence will be developed using a slower approach by the respective Area Intelligence Unit.
- 4.5 Where a response is required, but this is assessed as a slower approach and therefore not immediate, the intelligence should continue to be developed and when completed, taken to the Duty Tactical Firearms Commander, so a decision can be made as to what action is required. Where appropriate the intelligence may be taken to the Daily Management Meeting (DMM) for local awareness. This may not be possible if it is sensitive.
- 4.6 At the conclusion of any police operation or in cases where no action is taken it is essential that all intelligence relating to firearms is submitted onto Athena as soon as possible.