



Absconders from Prison Procedure Surrey

Policy

The Recording of Investigative Policy Decisions and Maintenance of Investigative Policy Logs (Surrey and Sussex)

Procedure

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An absconder from prison may be any person who:
- a. has been remanded in custody pending trial and has absconded; or
 - b. has been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment following a trial or guilty plea and absconded.
- or
- c. has been released on temporary license (ROTL) whilst serving a custodial sentence and has absconded.
- 1.2 Such people will be deemed unlawfully at large and, in legal terms, have escaped from custody.
- 1.3 An absconder from any Prison or Police station **will** be dealt with in accordance with the procedures for dealing with a wanted person, and in full compliance with the directions of the Missing Persons Manual. The risk assessment must include the risk that the absconder presents to themselves and the public and in particular, any witnesses or victims.

2. Statement

2.1 Contact Centre Actions

- 2.2 On receipt of a report that a person has absconded from custody, the Contact Centre will create a Smart STORM incident and grade according to risk presented and allocate to the FCR for deployment as appropriate.

2.2 The FIM will be made aware.

2.3 Silver to be made aware

2. Dispatch within FCC

- 3.1 Initial police response to be managed by the Force Silver Commander
- 3.2 The Divisional Duty also will be notified.
- 3.3 The divisional or duty Detective Inspector will also be notified who should consider identifying a investigations lead as well as consideration or discussing tactical opportunities with the on call MCT SIO and /or a CLEM.
- 3.3 Dispatch will deploy a resource as appropriate with the aim being to facilitate the timely arrest of a person wanted for Absconding. Dispatch will place a wanted/missing report on PNC with a 24 hour weed date as per current practice to ensure that the information is available on PNC at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.4 The officer deployed is responsible for establishing with the prison service how and under what circumstances the prisoner escaped and if there was any third-party involvement.
- 3.5 They are also responsible for creating a crime report relating to the criminal offence of Escape from lawful custody under common law, and for sending the Data Bureau a wanted /missing MSS. The offender must be shown as a wanted person on PNC.
- 3.6 For the purpose of the investigation all enquiries will be undertaken on the Crime report and actions will be recorded and updated on the NICHE action log.

4. Recalls to Prison Custody

- 4.1 When a subject is released from prison on license, if they do not keep any of the conditions they may be recalled to prison to serve the rest of their sentence. Examples of when a subject may be recalled to prison include if they breach any of their license conditions, commit a further offence during the license term, are charged with an offence during the license term or if their Offender Manager believes that another offence may be committed. The initial contact with National Identification Service will detail whether the recall is an 'Emergency Recall' or a 'Standard Recall'.
- 4.3 Emergency recall- within 48hours

Standard recall – within 96hours

- 4.5 NOMs alert Surrey Police of the issue of a recall notice, via the Contact Centre mailbox, **!Contact Centre**. The 24/7 Intelligence Team is also copied into the recall message so that the subject can be entered onto the Prison Recall Monitoring Spreadsheet. (Please ensure that the Target Date is entered which will reflect the type of Recall either Emergency which will be 48hrs or Standard which will be 96hrs)
- 4.6 FCC will create a Smart STORM incident and send to Contact for initial NPT deployment. They also create a Niche report. The Smart STORM will be sent to the 24/7 Intelligence Team and entered onto the Prison Recall Monitoring Spreadsheet. Dispatch will carry out initial PNC, and NICHE checks for any officer safety intelligence and more recent addresses to consider. This will be added to the Smart STORM to supplement the recall to prison information.
- 4.7 If the subject is arrested the **Smart STORM must be updated** and sent to the 24/7 Intelligence Team so that the Prison Recall Monitoring Spreadsheet can be updated. It is the responsibility of the arresting officer to ensure that a Detained Report is placed on PNC.
- 4.8 If the initial tasking is not successful, then the Smart STORM will be closed with the negative result and sent to the Divisional Intelligence Unit (DIU) for further intelligence research.
- 4.9 On those occasions where the subject is managed by Surrey Probation but does not have a Surrey address, then the Recall will be held by the 24/7 team.
- 4.10 The NICHE report is allocated to the DIU and the Duty DS will be made aware.
- 4.11 If during office hours the Duty DS will make contact with the local DIU and a joint decision will be made as to who is best placed to take ownership. The change of ownership must be communicated to the 24/7 team by the DIU so that it can be recorded on the Prison Recall Monitoring Spreadsheet.
- 4.12 The DIU will record actions and results on the NICHE entry OEL.
- 4.13 A NICHE entry must be made similar to a Force Flag but on Full Access so that all Officers and Staff are aware that the subject is Wanted on a Recall. The Flag must give details of the DIU should any information or arrest of subject come to notice.
- 4.14 Once the intelligence research has been completed, resulting actions must be brought to the attention of the Duty DS so that the appropriate resources can be deployed.

- 4.15 If the subject is arrested, then the NICHE record and Prison Recall Monitoring Spreadsheet must be completed and the Force Flag and PNC wanted record removed.
- 4.16 The CRAU Intelligence Support Officer will complete and return the quarterly stats required by NOMS.

PRISON RECALLS FLOWCHART

5. Visor Subjects

5.1 FCC

- 5.2 Where a person wanted on recall is a '**ViSOR**' subject this will be brought to the attention of the Detective Inspector for the Public Protection Risk Management Unit via **!ViSOR marked "Urgent – Visor Absconder"**
- 5.3 They will then take the lead for the recall of this individual supported by the relevant DIU.
- 5.4 Where a ViSOR subject is resident in St Catherine's Priory, Ferry Lane, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4EE a detailed Smart STORM will already be in existence as part of the risk management plan. Where a resident from here is reported missing or recalled the Initial actions on the Smart STORM must be put into place.

It is important to note the following regarding emergency recalls initiated by St Catherine's Approved premises.

6. Out of Hours FCC action

- 6.1 If the recall is received out of hours i.e. after 1600hrs on a weekday or at the weekend then on being passed the Smart STORM by Contact, Dispatch Control will contact the Duty on call Detective Inspector to continue with actions to locate until such time as the Public Protection High Harm Perpetrator Unit Detective Inspector can take ownership. In all cases the 24/7 Intelligence Team will offer support.
- 6.2 In all cases due consideration will be made of the risk that the individual poses to the community and actions put in place that are proportionate to this threat.
- 6.3 Those individuals who remain at large following initial action will be sought via the normal intelligence checks with the 24/7 Intelligence Team, again detailed on the flowchart.

- 6.5 All ViSOR subjects wanted for recall will remain a priority and be managed by the Det Inspector as outlined above until successfully returned to prison.

7. Long-Term Case Management

- 7.1 The recall to prison will be the DIU responsibility (except where there is no known Surrey address in which case the 24/7 team have responsibility) with reviews being conducted at 28 days, 3 months, 6 months and then annually. Each six-monthly review must be endorsed and agreed by a Detective Inspector.
- 7.2 HMP services in the Surrey Police area will review their absconder register on a monthly basis and will inform the 24/7 team if the absconder returns to the prison of their own volition, or when they receive any information regarding the prisoner's whereabouts or reason for absconding. The 24/7 team will pass this information to the DIUs.

8. Case Closure

- 8.1 Located – Interview to confirm welfare.
- 8.2 Not located – Never closed.
- 8.3 When the absconder is taken back into custody, it is the responsibility of the arresting officer to ensure that a detained marker MSS is sent to the Data Bureau.
- 8.4 Officers considering prison enquiries or obtaining information / intelligence about the absconder's prison associates, or people who have visited them in prison, can seek advice and guidance from the Prison Intelligence Unit.

Officers may consider conducting interviews with cell mates and associates by way of a legal visit.