



## Scene Guarding Policy

### Policy

#### 1. Introduction

To provide the Force with a consistent approach to scene guarding.

#### 2. Scope

This document outlines the procedure by which scene guards at ongoing crime scenes and other ongoing incidents are to be resourced.

#### 3. Policy Statement

Surrey Police is committed to ensuring that scenes of crime are guarded to maximise the opportunity to identify and secure forensic evidence. Surrey Police is also committed to supplying scene guards or cordons to ensure the safety of public. Compliance with this policy will be monitored through the Daily Management Meeting or Duty Officer.

### Procedure

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 As part of their core role NPT will attend incidents as first responders where scene guarding is required for a variety of reasons. Primarily however this will be for either public safety or evidential reasons.

1.2 NPT are responsible for the provision of scene guards from the outset of any appropriate incident until the end of the shift following the next (DMM).

1.3 Specific responsibilities for NPT supervisors will be:

- To identify the need for scene preservation and confirm the level of guarding required. This could be anything from a presence at a location through to a visual containment/line of sight cordon through to the provision of physical protection at a scene to provide continuity of evidence. Where appropriate these decisions will be made following consultation with investigators.
- To brief staff as to their role and expectations when performing their duties at a scene.
- To ensure the maintenance of a scene log to the required standard, considering the operational security of the scene in accordance with the Force Scene Guard Guidance.
- Together with the SIO/OIC, to make an early assessment of how long the guard is likely to be needed for, regularly reviewing the need for such guards and their numbers, ensuring that other solutions for maintaining the scene are considered

and for ensuring that the scene is released as soon as possible, whilst ensuring the correct securing, preserving and harvesting of evidence and preservation of public safety.

- To arrange the provision of physical equipment that may be needed for staff to perform the role. This may include vehicles, lighting etc.
- To identify staff from within NPT to continue the duty, allowing for welfare breaks as required.

- 1.4 In making these decisions the Duty Officer should consider capacity and commitments across the division to make best use of staff. Geographic location alone should not dictate the staff deployed.
- 2 Within office hours, the duty officer for the area should contact Force Resourcing and brief them on the incident. Force Resourcing will assist in providing staff if required.
- 3 Where a scene guard extends or is likely to extend beyond 24 hours the onus of resourcing will no longer be with NPT and the DMM will be responsible for the allocation of resources. The Duty Officer is responsible for the early flagging of any scene that is likely to require the provision of guards beyond the next Force DMM with the duties team as soon as practicable within normal working hours. The Duty Officer is also responsible for ensuring that this need is flagged at the next DMM. If the requirements of the scene guard cannot be met from within divisional resources, the Chair of the DMM will take a bid for further resourcing.
4. Influencing factors in deciding this will include capacity of divisional resourcing and any community impact.
5. Should NPT be required to continue to provide staff for a protracted period then the chair of DMM should be mindful of how this may affect their performance and capability to meet their core commitments.
6. DMM will ensure that the resource(s) allocated are the most appropriate in the circumstances. Where this provision is to guard a prisoner in hospital then a warranted officer(s) will be required, but in other circumstances members of police staff may be more appropriate. In particular PCSOs should be considered subject to a risk assessment. In the case of large scenes, or scenes that are likely to need guarding for an extended period, further options are to be considered including outsourcing (use of the private sector), mutual aid and the use of operationally deployable officers and staff from across the force. The choice of resource(s) should be led by the need to suitably guard the scene whilst minimising the impact upon normal operational activity and cost.