



Supporting Local Pubwatch Schemes Procedure

Policy

Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSO) - Investigation Workload Policy.docx

Procedure

1. Introduction

1.1 This Procedure outlines the police's role in supporting local Pubwatch schemes to promote a safe, secure, and responsible drinking environment while ensuring lawful information sharing practices. It aligns with relevant legislation, including the Licensing Act 2003, UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and Data Protection Act 2018. It also adheres to the Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol (MAISP), which governs the sharing of data between police and Pubwatch schemes.

1.2 This procedure applies to police Licensing Enforcement Officers (LEO) involved in supporting or collaborating with Pubwatch schemes. Pubwatch is a voluntary initiative operated by licensees and is not managed or accredited by the police. The police's involvement is to provide support, advice, and lawful information sharing where appropriate.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 The Role of Pubwatch

- Pubwatch is a voluntary scheme operated by local licensees to reduce alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, by adhering to their responsibilities to refuse service or entry to problem individuals via a carefully considered and proportionate banning scheme and to share information safely and lawfully about troublesome patrons with the other members.
- Decisions, such as imposing bans, are made by Pubwatch members independently of the police.

3. The Role of the Police

3.1 Support and Advice:

- Provide advice on crime trends and public safety issues to assist Pubwatch in tackling local problems.
- Support Pubwatch initiatives that promote the **four licensing objectives** under the Licensing Act 2003:
 1. Prevention of crime and disorder
 2. Public safety
 3. Prevention of public nuisance
 4. Protection of children from harm.

4. Information Sharing:

4.1 Information sharing with Pubwatch schemes is conducted for the **prevention and detection of crime** with a lawful basis as stipulated in UK GDPR and DPA 2018.

4.2 All sharing processes must comply with the Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol (MAISP), ensuring data is shared securely, proportionately, and for a policing purpose only.

5. Limitations

5.1 The police must not manage Pubwatch schemes or make decisions about bans. The management and decisions on bans are the responsibility of Pubwatch.

5.2 Police should avoid imposing blanket requirements, such as mandatory Pubwatch membership, as part of license conditions. Such requirements are outside of the spirit of the scheme.

6. Operational Guidelines

6.1 Supporting New Pubwatch Schemes:

- Encourage licensees to establish Pubwatch schemes in areas where none exist by championing the benefits of the scheme and how such groups promote safer environments for all.
- Maintain a cooperative relationship but ensure the independence of the scheme.

6.2 Bans and Appeals:

- Pubwatch bans are voluntary agreements made by licensees/members. The police should not interfere with decisions to impose, or appeal bans.

6.3 Insurance Requirements:

- Encourage Pubwatch schemes to consider indemnity insurance to protect against potential legal challenges.

6.4 Accountability and Review

Monitoring

- LEOs should monitor incidents and relevant crime trends in areas with active Pubwatch schemes to assess the scheme's effectiveness.

6.5 Complaints and Issues:

- Any issues relating to police involvement in Pubwatch should be reported to the LEO Professional Line Manager for resolution.

By following these guidelines, the police can lawfully and effectively support Pubwatch schemes, fostering safer communities while respecting the independence of the licensed trade.