



Fraud Investigation Policy

This document is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner Personnel are required to adhere to.

Policy Statement

This policy statement is open to public viewing from the NYP Website

North Yorkshire Police will respond through assessment of ALL Calls for Service in relation to allegations of Fraud received from North Yorkshire Communities.

In addition to this, ALL disseminations from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) to North Yorkshire Police will also be assessed.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that members of North Yorkshire communities have confidence in reporting matters of fraud to North Yorkshire Police and be reassured that lines of enquiry will be pursued effectively to try and achieve positive outcomes for victims.

In many cases fraud is committed by offenders who are outside of the UK jurisdiction; therefore all opportunities for disruption will be taken in order to prevent further offences taking place.

Fraud remains a significant threat based on scale, complexity, impact and variability in crime type. It leaves a significant impact on individuals, in particularly the vulnerable who are often targeted by those seeking to exploit them.

In recognition of this, a full criminal investigation may not always be the most practicable, nor appropriate response to the circumstances reported. As such, all calls for service and disseminations will be subject of an investigative review by a fraud assessor or appropriate member of the Economic Crime Unit.

The default assumption is that all reports of fraud will be subject to a full criminal investigation, however, given the complexities of fraud offending this may not always be the case.

There are a number of factors to consider when making these decisions which include (but are not exclusive to):

Policy Template 2018

- Cases where the victim's motive for making the complaint appears to be malicious with primary focus being on recovering monies owed, or designed to distract attention from the reporting persons own involvement in the fraud.
- Cases where victims are not prepared to fully co-operate with the investigation and/or prosecution. North Yorkshire Police however will always give careful consideration to how victims and witnesses who have concerns about safety can be fully supported.
- Frauds that have already been investigated by the Police or other Law Enforcement Agency or any of which have been subject of regulatory proceedings and there is no further evidence that has come to light.
- Any Frauds where the likely eventual outcome, in terms of length of sentence and/or financial penalty, is not significant enough to justify estimated costs and effort of a full investigation/evidential case.

As part of the investigative assessment, opportunities to disrupt criminality and safeguard victims will be considered and initiated. Following any assessment a decision may be made that it is more appropriate for a prosecution case to be made by an alternative Law Enforcement Agency (e.g. HMRC, Solicitors Regulatory Authority, and Trading Standards etc.)

With such cases North Yorkshire Police will make a full referral and continue to work with partners to assist with any investigation.

North Yorkshire Police will take every opportunity to identify criminal assets and return these to their rightful owners, even if a full criminal investigation is not practicable.

Regardless of the final decision of investigation, all victims of fraud will be given full safeguarding support should they wish to do so.

Where a victim of crime requires clarification on decision making or wishes to appeal a decision, contact can be made with the Economic Crime Unit where the appeal will be reviewed by a Detective Sergeant.

The Fraud Response, Recording, Allocation and Investigation Procedure outline the requirements to achieve these aims and objectives.

Definition of Special Terms

Linkages

Strategy:

Subsidiary Linked Procedures:

Other Documents:

Note: In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act all force policies and procedures that are not marked as OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE will be published on the NYP Website. It is necessary to apply Government Security Classification (GSC) see Protective Marking Procedure for advice on how to mark and handle documents.