

DERBYSHIRE CONSTABULARY
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DERBYSHIRE



Protocol for Communication of Critical Incidents between Derbyshire Constabulary and the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner

1. In the event of a critical incident occurring in Derbyshire (or elsewhere, involving Derbyshire Police officers) both Derbyshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner (Commissioner) recognise that they have clear and complementary responsibilities: the Force has responsibility for dealing with operational matters efficiently and effectively while the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the way in which it does so. This protocol in no way interferes with the operational independence of the Chief Constable or the role of the Commissioner in providing scrutiny and governance of the Force.
2. There is recognition of the long standing relationship between the Force and previously with the Police Authority in relation to the sharing of information in respect of managing risk, critical incidents and major crime and this will continue with the Commissioner.
3. The ACPO definition of a critical incident is:

'Any incident where the effectiveness of the police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family and/or the community.'
4. Examples of actual or anticipated events, circumstances or incidents covered by this protocol include:
 - a. Within Derbyshire:
 - (1) Operations likely to have a significant or disproportionate effect on particular communities in terms of diversity, geography or have a bearing politically or on the reputation of the force
 - (2) Significant issues, events or circumstances likely to give rise to contentious or high profile media coverage at a national, regional or local level.
 - (3) Any significant loss of operational capability or impairment
 - b. Outside Derbyshire
 - (1) An actual or anticipated change in the level of security warning or alert at a national or regional level
 - (2) Operations where assistance from Derbyshire Constabulary is requested under terms of mutual aid arrangements with other police services where such mutual aid and assistance is likely to generate press comment
 - (3) Civil dislocation, catastrophic incident and natural disaster likely to have significant economic, social or infrastructure impact within Derbyshire
5. As a source of reassurance to the communities of Derbyshire it is important that the Commissioner is made aware of incidents that might have a significant impact on public confidence. At the same time, the Commissioner acknowledges the number of incidents meeting the above criteria that take place within the Force area and

accepts a level of professional judgement whether to be informed of them all. A critical incident can be declared at any level yet it is sensible that only those incidents concurred with by an ACPO or Senior Investigating Officer within the Force's own Critical Incident Policy once informed, need be relayed to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will rely on the judgement of the appropriate duty chief officer/SIO as to whether they need to be informed as soon as practicable or at a more reasonable time in that regard.

6. In decisions taken that the Commissioner or their deputy should be informed as soon as practicable it is to be accepted that operational management of the incident will always take precedence.
7. To make the protocol work effectively it requires a degree of trust, which on occasions may lead to the sharing of sensitive information. Senior officers of the Force are vetted to an appropriate level and the Commissioner and Deputy will need to have signed the Official Secrets Act as the nationally agreed alternative to formal vetting or accept that some matters may not be disclosed outside of the gift of those officers will to do so.
8. The Force adopts a Gold (strategic), Silver (tactical) and Bronze (operational) command structure for critical incidents. On occasions there may also be a Gold Group established in respect of Major Crime. This protocol does not interfere with this command structure. There may be occasions when the Commissioner may be invited to join these command groups depending on the nature of the incident.
9. The Commissioner's attendance at these incidents will be in an observance and non operational role and attendance at any Gold Group will be subject to prior agreement with the Duty ACPO officer.
10. Derbyshire has an established Independent Advisory Group (IAG), which provides regular external 'critical friend' support to the Force in relation to the community perspective around significant critical incidents and major crime. The Commissioner's statutory role in providing governance and scrutiny should not impinge upon the role of the IAG however it is recognised that the Commissioner may be in a position to provide an additional community perspective to Gold groups where invited.

Signed:

Mick Creedon QPM
Chief Constable
Derbyshire Constabulary

Date

Alan Charles
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Derbyshire

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