

 WARWICKSHIRE POLICE		POLICY
Security Classification	OFFICIAL	
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes	

POLICY TITLE	Fraud Investigation
REFERENCE NUMBER	WP004
Version	1.1

POLICY OWNERSHIP	
DIRECTORATE	PROTECTIVE SERVICES
BUSINESS AREA	Economic Crime Unit

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	May 2024
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	May 2026
RISK RATING	MEDIUM
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	LOW

Warwickshire Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy. Please e-mail policiesandprocedures@warwickshire.police.uk

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1. POLICY OUTLINE

This document reflects the policy of Warwickshire Police. It sets out how officers and staff will respond to incidents involving fraud. The policy is aimed at police officers, control room staff, crime bureau staff, supervisors and management who are involved in the response to, and investigation of fraud and cyber-dependant crime offences.

The strategic aim of Warwickshire Police is to protect and manage the risk of harm to those persons who live, work or travel within these boundaries. This is reflected in the policing priorities of Putting Victims and Survivors First, Protecting People from Harm, Preventing and Reducing Crime and Ensuring Effective and Efficient Service. The effective response to and investigation of offences of fraud and cybercrime, is paramount in order to afford our communities more protection and thereby increase trust and confidence.

This policy is also produced in line with the HMICFRS recommendation that all Police Forces should publish their force's policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for service and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement).

2. PURPOSE OF POLICY

Since the inception of Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), Warwickshire Police has had established processes and guidance for staff dealing with fraud and cybercrime reports, within this national framework. This policy seeks to formalise those practices into a single policy and procedure. This is in line with HMICFRS recommended practice and meets the Warwickshire Police Priority of Ensuring Effective and Efficient Service.

The aim of this policy is to set out clearly how we will investigate reports of fraud and cybercrime, and the service that the public can expect; either when reporting a fraud / cyber crime directly to the force (as a call for service) or when their report made via Action Fraud is disseminated to the force for investigation. The standards and service set out within are compliant with the Code of Ethics, consistent with our force Vision of Protecting People from Harm and our ambition to be great at protecting the most vulnerable.

Fraud offences fall under the priorities of Protecting People from Harm and Preventing and Reducing Crime, as they represent serious acquisitive crime and are often perpetrated by Organised Crime Groups. This policy is victim focussed complementing our priority of Putting Victims and Survivors First; explaining what victims of fraud can expect from Warwickshire Police and giving them the confidence to report Fraud within the local and national reporting framework.

Fraudsters frequently target vulnerable people in our communities and the approach of this policy is to protect the most vulnerable; via robust

investigations into fraud, that consider both criminal justice outcomes but also disruption and prevention opportunities. This is essential given the scale of the challenge presented by fraud, which can see criminals operating across force, national and international boundaries.

This policy seeks to redress the misconception that fraud is a victimless crime that police do not take seriously. The scale, complexity and impact of fraud poses a significant threat, particularly on vulnerable groups, who require safeguarding from those seeking to exploit them.

The Fraud Response and Investigation Procedure outlines the requirements to achieve these aims and objectives; it includes our initiatives to protect people against fraud such as Courier Fraud, the Banking Protocol and Operation Signature. The Procedure seeks to explain the role of different members of our workforce in investigating fraud, to empower them to deliver our Values, particularly Public Service.

3. IMPLICATIONS of the POLICY

Legal Considerations

There are several pieces of relevant legislation that allow for the effective investigation of fraud offences:

- Theft Act 1968
- Fraud Act 2006
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (as amended by Serious Crime Act 2017)
- Financial Services and Marketing Act 2000
- Bribery Act 2010
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- CPIA 1996

Human Resources / Training

Training has been identified as a requirement to effectively implement this policy. Through the Police Transformation Fund a number of Specialist Fraud Investigation courses have been provided to enhance capability. These courses have been provided by the Economic Crime Academy. Staff from within the Economic Crime Unit have either completed or project to complete these courses.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Cybercrime Programme has provided a number of specialist Cybercrime Investigation courses to enhance our capability of responding to CMA-linked offending. These courses have been provided by Firebrand Training. Staff from within the Economic Crime Unit have either completed or project to complete these courses.

Financial Implications

There is no requirement for additional funding and existing funding will be sufficient to implement this policy.

Code of Practice on the Management of Police Information

This policy will be subject of MoPI principles and will be reviewed subject to changes in resources or procedures.

4. PROCEDURE

The procedure is contained within a separate document, which outlines the requirements to achieve the aims and objectives of this policy.

5. DOCUMENT HISTORY

The history and rationale for change to policy will be recorded using the below chart:

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Date of Approval / Adoption
Sep 2019	DS P3232 Cooper	New Warwickshire Police Policy	JNCC 18/12/2019
April 2024	DI 1235 Chris FINCH	Amendments to current Warwickshire Police Policy.	May 2024

6. CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with the OCC, the Crime Bureau, the Force Crime Registrar, and stakeholders in investigation.

7. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

This procedure has been subject of an Equality Analysis (EA), Health and Safety Assessment (HAS) and Risk Assessment (RA) and is available on a separate document.