

SURVEYS OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES FOR CRIME PREVENTION PURPOSES

STRATEGY: Crime Management

POLICY: Crime Reduction

BRANCH: Crime Management

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The surveying of commercial premises can be an important contact point between the police and members of the business community. The provision of survey reports can be used as part of a repeat victimisation project or in isolation as a pre-emptive crime prevention measure.

1.2 This PD does not address statutory issues such as the assessment of facilities for storage of firearms, explosives and controlled drugs. In such cases specific provisions and requirements apply.

1.3 The legal basis for this Practise Direction is the responsibility under the Police Act 1997 to prevent and detect crime.

2 AUTHORITY LEVELS

2.1 Only Divisional Crime Reduction Officers will conduct surveys of commercial premises.

2.2 Only the Force Pharmacy Liaison Officer (CMB, FIU) will conduct surveys of pharmacy premises

3 INFORMATION

3.1 Four types of surveys of commercial premises can be undertaken:

a) When requested by the Home Office - these relate to premises such as museums and in accordance with Home Office Policy we make a charge. Humberside Police charge a special duty rate and a written report is provided. Advice regarding charging should be obtained from the relevant Finance Unit.

b) For Insurance Purposes - for example when a travel agent wishes to set up business and needs a written survey from the police to send to their insurance company before they can start a business. A charge will be made, again at special duty rate.

c) Where a Company request a commercial survey - a written report will not be provided and the company should make provision to supply someone to take down the Divisional Crime Reduction Officer's recommendations. No charge is made for this service.

d) Where a Divisional Crime Reduction Officer proactively determines commercial premises should be surveyed, generally as the result of local intelligence which identifies premises that have been subject of recent burglary or attack. Again the company in question should make provision for someone to record the Divisional Crime Reduction Officer's advice. No charge is made.

4 REQUESTS FOR SURVEYS

4.1 All requests for surveys of commercial premises, except those in 4.2 below, will be directed to the local Divisional Crime Reduction Officer. In the event of his/her absence and there being no other trained Divisional Crime Reduction Officer at that Division the Divisional Crime Reduction Officer at an adjoining Division will be contacted.

4.2 Requests for surveys of pharmacies will be directed to the Force Pharmacy Liaison Officer who will also conduct all statutory security assessments on cabinets storing potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

5.1 This PD has been drafted in consideration of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. Any action taken will be in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights or freedoms of others.

5.2 Any action will be proportionate, necessary and justifiable in relation to the issue being addressed.

5.3 This PD is suitable for general publication.

5.4 This PD should be subject to review every three years or sooner in the case of a change in legislation or policy.

5.5 Any action taken under the terms of this PD could be subject to scrutiny in the civil or criminal courts. Anyone aggrieved by action taken can make use of the 'Complaints Against Police' procedures.

6. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME

6.1 The content of this PD has been considered under the provisions of the Race Equality Scheme, as dictated by the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended), and deemed to be non - relevant

7. RACE RELATIONS AMENDMENTS ACT (2000)

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken covering Diversity, Race, Disability, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Beliefs and Age.

8. DATE OF PUBLICATION

Published 30.7.03

Revised 24/11/06

9. OTHER REFERENCES

9.1 ACPO Crime Committee Sub-Committee Paper, 17 May 1995 - Legal advice in respect of Crime Prevention and Crime Prevention officers

9.2 Humberside Police ACPO Security Systems Policy 2000