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Published

| Event History

**Policy owned by Operational Services
Abandoned Vehicles****1. Policy Purpose and key drivers**

This policy draws together individual existing procedures concerning the recovery of motor vehicles that appear to be abandoned.

The Police have a clear duty in law to deal with property in an appropriate manner, safeguarding the interests of the legitimate owner and, as a consequence, vehicles that are found abandoned in appropriate circumstances will be recovered to authorised garages for safekeeping.

It is a Force Policy that vehicles that have been subject to or involved in crime will be subject to forensic examinations with the intention of identifying offender(s) and thereby detecting and reducing crime and the effects of crime.

Vehicles that are abandoned but which are not subject to police enquiries concerning crime can also be dealt with by Local Councils and there are formal information sharing arrangements with Staffordshire Councils to arrange for them to be notified of such vehicles coming to the notice of Staffordshire Police.

The key drivers in recovering abandoned vehicles are to protect peoples' property, to detect offenders in relevant cases and to remove hazards from the public domain thereby safeguarding the community.

Related Documents

Links to related documents: [Abandoned Vehicles - Stolen \(Procedure\)](#)
[Abandoned Vehicles - Not Stolen \(Procedure\)](#)

Gatekeeper - the Author suggested the following Procedure document(s) to link to. Abandoned Vehicles - Not Stolen; Abandoned Vehicles - Stolen

Relevant Dates and Review Period

Effective Date: 02/11/2011
Review Date: 02/11/2018
Review Frequency: Annually

Policy Basis and Implications

2. Legal Basis: Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
Removal & Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1986;
Police And Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.

3. Management of Police Information (MoPI): **MoPI Policing Purpose:**
Protecting Life and Property, Preserving order, Preventing the commission of offences, Bringing offenders to justice, Any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law
MoPI Review, Retention and Disposal addressed as follows:
All records relating to vehicle recovery are reviewed on an annual basis. Paper records will be destroyed after 6 years. Electronic records have strictly controlled access within the organisation. Access to search records can be obtained via Traffic Management Unit for policing purposes. The database used by recovery garages does not reveal restricted material.

4. Associated Benefits:	This policy and its associated procedures set out clear processes as to how abandoned vehicles should be dealt with differentiating between those that are stolen or otherwise involved in a criminal event and those that have for other apparently none criminal reasons been abandoned. In both cases property of the individual is protected and vehicles that may present a danger to the public at large are removed ensuring their safety.
5. Consultation:	Traffic Management Unit Vehicle Recovery operators. Force Road Crime Team. Police Federation Unison
6. Financial Implications:	Cost recovery in line with: Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; Removal & Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1986; Police And Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.
7. Human Resources / Training:	No additional HR or training implications
8. Associated Policy:	N/A

FOI, Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment Indicators

FOIA:	Release to Public	
ECHR:	Compliant with proportionality test	Articles engaged: Article 8 Right to respect for Private and Family life; Protocol, Article 1 - Protection of Property
EIA:	Compliant	

Indexing

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