

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Published

Event History

**Policy owned by Operational Services
Warrants - Fail To Appear (FTA)****1. Policy Purpose and key drivers**

The intention of this policy is to provide standard procedures enabling efficient and effective recording, handling and execution of 'fail to appear' warrants issued by the courts. Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid down and utilising the electronic Warrants Management System (WMS) all warrants accepted by the force for execution are dealt with appropriately sending a firm message to offenders that justice will be done, and be seen to be done, and to reassure victims that the criminal justice system works, thereby increasing public confidence.

Adherence to the procedures and proper use of the WMS will ensure that a complete audit trail of the progress of a warrant including grading, risk assessments, enquiries, and execution are completed properly and expedited appropriately the risk of unlawful arrests due to previously executed warrants are eliminated.

The policy ensures that outstanding warrants are managed and appropriate action taken to address them.

The policy ensures that police activity concerning warrants is transparent and subject to external scrutiny reporting to the Courts, the Local Criminal Justice Board and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.

Related Documents

Links to related documents:

[Warrants FTA - Classification & Grading \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Crown Court Bench Warrants \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Imported \(None Staffordshire\) Warrants \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Staffordshire \(Domestic\) Warrants - With Bail \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Staffordshire \(Domestic\) Warrants - Without Bail \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Home Office Production Orders \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Roles & Responsibilities \(Procedure\)](#)
[Warrants FTA - Warrants Management System \(Procedure\)](#)

Gatekeeper - the Author suggested the following Procedure document(s) to link to.

Warrants FTA - Classification & Grading; Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Crown Court Bench Warrants; Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Domestic Warrants - With Bail; Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Domestic Warrants - Without Bail; Warrants FTA - Flow Chart - Imported Warrants; Warrants FTA - Home Office Orders; Warrants FTA - Roles & Responsibilities; Warrants FTA - Warrants Management System; Warrants Matrix

Relevant Dates and Review Period

Effective Date: 18/05/2015
 Review Date: 31/03/2019
 Review Frequency: 6 months

Policy Basis and Implications

2. Legal Basis:
 The Criminal Justice Act 2003;
 The Magistrates Courts Act 1998;
 The Magistrates' Courts Act 1980
 The Magistrates' Courts Rules 1981
 Mental Health Act 1983;

3. Management of Police Information (MoPI):	<p>Data Protection Act 1998; The Computer Misuse Act 1990; Human Rights Act 1998.</p> <p>MoPI Policing Purpose: Bringing offenders to justice</p> <p>MoPI Review, Retention and Disposal addressed as follows: Following a warrant being issued by a Staffordshire court, the court notifies Staffordshire Police electronically. This information is transferred onto the force warrant management system (WMS) and also onto the Police National Computer (PNC). Details of the warrant will remain on the system until either the warrant is executed or after a period of 12 months, when it will be reviewed and if considered applicable, referred to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for consideration to withdraw.</p>
4. Associated Benefits:	<p>The benefits for the force of this policy are to minimise the resource implications in dealing with the processes and procedures for the handling, recording and execution of Fail To Appear warrants. The risk of unlawful arrest is minimised whilst maximising the potential to improve the number of successfully executed warrants. This ensures that operational frontline roles are maximised whilst promoting public safety and confidence.</p> <p>Statistical quarterly collation allows for performance to be measured against the nationally set timescale targets for execution of warrants subject to their grading. The grading of all warrants is in accordance with the National Guidance.</p>
5. Consultation:	<p>Staffordshire Police Crime Closure Unit Her Majesty's Courts Service Crown Prosecution Service</p>
6. Financial Implications:	None
7. Human Resources / Training:	<p>Police Staff undertake the designated role of Warrant Administration officer. Internal training is undertaken to ensure correct access and usage of both force and national computer systems.</p>
8. Associated Policy:	None

FOI, Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment Indicators

FOIA:	Release to Public		
ECHR:	Compliant with proportionality test	Articles engaged:	Article 6 Fair Trial; Article 7 No Punishment without Law
EIA:	Compliant	Compliant with Code of Ethics:	Yes

Indexing

Categories:	<p>Court Proceedings Custody Warrants</p>
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