



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

CONSTABULARY

MEDIA GUIDE

2025

Contacting us

Our Corporate Communications team is based at Strategic Police and Fire Headquarters in Eastleigh.

Our office is open Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm. The office is also open between 8.30am and 4.30pm at weekends. You can contact us as follows –

Telephone: **023 8045 1601**

Email: **corporate.comms@hampshire.police.uk**

We operate a call-out facility outside these hours and on Bank Holidays. During these times, if you have an urgent enquiry, please contact the Force Incident Manager (FIM) who can contact the call out communications officer. Email the FIM direct at **force.control@hampshire.police.uk**



How we work with you

We work in accordance with the College of Policing Media Relations Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

A full copy of this document is available here:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/engagement-and-communication/media-relations/>

Speaking terms

We do not use the term 'off the record'.

We will use the following terms: reportable, non-reportable or embargoed, when releasing information to media.



Police operations or patrols

Media joining officers on patrol or operations will be required to sign an indemnity agreement.

It is the responsibility of the media to ensure they do not identify any person or location without consent. Media access to private property is at the discretion of the owner or legal occupier, not the police, and you should seek written permission before doing so.



OLICE

Media enquiries about road traffic incidents

We will give priority to enquiries about road traffic incidents that are ongoing and causing significant disruption to the road network. We will provide details of the vehicles and people involved in a collision if there is an ongoing investigation and this information is relevant to an appeal or required operationally. We will provide only basic details relating to minor road collisions where there is no further police involvement.

This will be location, time and number of vehicles. The responsibility for managing road closures lies with the relevant highways authority, which should be contacted for details of closures and expected re-opening times.

Arrests and charges

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary will not name a person under arrest, invited for voluntary interview or issued with a caution or fixed penalty notice. We will not confirm any names put to us by media or confirm any information which may lead to that person's identity being revealed. We will confirm the name of a person charged with an offence, their age, address and details of the offence.



Media should note section 141F of the Education Act 2002.

An automatic reporting restriction is in place to protect the identity of any teacher who is alleged by a pupil at the same school to have committed a criminal offence against the pupil. This restriction ends if proceedings against the teacher are instituted.

At a scene

Our officers and staff should not prevent you from filming in a public place unless it is within a police cordoned area. However, media should be aware of and respect any potential operational requirements.



Details of incidents

We will always aim to accurately describe a crime.

There may be exceptions such as a need to safeguard a vulnerable person, protect a victim's interests or as an investigative tactic. In these cases the senior investigative officer will be asked to give a full rationale to our department. Our aim is to be as open and transparent as possible with you.



Media enquiries about police incidents and investigations

For us to be able to search our systems, reporters need to provide us with a specific date, location and brief description of what the enquiry relates to. We understand that, for certain investigations, a road name will not be applicable. Where possible we will try to answer these enquiries in line with the APP, providing enough information is provided to help us locate the investigation. In line with the APP, we cannot answer media enquiries where names are speculatively put forward. We prioritise enquiries about ongoing incidents and those serious crimes under investigation.



Reported for summons

If someone is due to be notified of the outcome of an investigation via this method, we will release the age, area they are from and details of the offence. The person is not formally charged until the alleged offences are put to them in a magistrate's court. This is why we will not release the name.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)



We will not confirm the identity of registered sex offenders (RSOs). It is not usual practice for us to proactively publicise Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) or Sexual Risk Orders (SRO).

Community Behaviour Orders (CBOs)

Agreements to publicise this information will be made on a case-by-case basis. Any decision to publicise details of an order will need to be proportionate.



Release of information during court proceedings

We follow the national CPS media protocol - [Publicity and the Criminal Justice System | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#). Requests to release material shown in court should be made to the CPS, but we may be consulted on its release, as stated in the protocol. For material used at inquests, requests should be made to the coroner in the first instance. More details here: [Guidance No. 25 Coroners and the Media \(judiciary.uk\)](#).

Bail legislation

There were significant changes to police bail following the Police and Crime Act 2017.



If someone is arrested on suspicion of an offence and subsequently released, we will use the following terminology – “released under investigation”.

The decision of whether to apply police bail or not must take into account all the circumstances of a case, including the necessity to support and protect victims and witnesses, and public safety. People may be released from bail but the alleged offences will continue to be investigated. Those who are released under investigation may be re-arrested or invited in for a voluntary interview as and when new evidence comes to light.

Postal Requisition

Postal requisition can be used instead of a summons or as a layered charge. We will consider whether we will name a person charged by postal requisition on a case by case basis, it may be that media are asked to wait until the person has appeared in court before their name is confirmed. We would always ensure the person charged has been notified prior to releasing this detail to the media.



The release of custody photographs will be at the discretion of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and if we are unable to issue one, an explanation will be provided.

If the image is made available, permission is then given for a single contemporaneous use. In some instances, we will issue the custody image proactively as part of a press release of a sentence hearing, to be used in accordance with any attached conditions.



Sudden death



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary will not confirm the identity of the deceased if their death is not suspicious. If the investigation is referred to the coroner and an inquest is to take place, it is part of the role of the coroner to identify the deceased. We will confirm the name of a person who has died in suspicious circumstances or in a road traffic collision only after formal identification has taken place and the next of kin have been informed – even if they are well-known and the name is already in the public domain.

Images



The copyright of images issued on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary website or as part of a media release belongs to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary. Images we issue should be used contemporaneously and in accordance with any attached conditions.

Custody photographs should be requested by submitting a form on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary website –

[Custody photo request | Hampshire Constabulary.](#)

Our threshold for releasing custody photographs is a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. There may be exceptions to this, however those will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other agencies – useful information

- Incidents that occur on railway lines and at train stations are the responsibility of the British Transport Police and enquiries should go to them.
- Road closures and traffic management are the responsibility of the relevant highways authority: Highways England (motorways and trunk roads), Hampshire County Council Highways or Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight councils.
- Enquiries about police buildings and funding should go to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Incidents where Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service are leading should be dealt with by their press office – even if police have attended on behalf of HIOWFRS.
- Incidents where the ambulance service are leading should be dealt with by their press office – even if police have attended on behalf of the relevant service.

Misconduct

In line with the requirements laid out in Police Regulations 2024, details of any forthcoming gross misconduct and accelerated misconduct hearings are published on the force website -



[Misconduct hearings | Hampshire Constabulary.](#)

If the chair of the hearing is minded to grant anonymity, a notice will be published on the force website inviting media to make representations, as well as details of any other restrictions being considered. Members of the media can apply to attend using the form available on the website. Details of outcomes for gross misconduct cases and accelerated misconduct hearings are also published on the force website, including details of any restrictions imposed.



Missing person appeals

We have certain criteria that must be met before we issue an appeal for a missing person, and we will always consider the effect any publicity will have on that person. Not all missing person incidents will result in a public appeal. We delete our appeals once the missing person has been found, at which point permission to use the image of the missing person is withdrawn. To protect younger people, and in line with national guidance, we will not include the surnames of missing people aged under 18.

- For evacuations or road closures relating to flooding, electricity outages, major fires etc, enquiries should go to the press office of that organisation.
- Illegal encampments are the responsibility of the landowner and we will only confirm our initial attendance or any subsequent enforcement activities in which we are involved.
- For incidents involving possible illegal immigration, we will give basic details if we have attended but the Border Force will usually lead on media enquiries. The local authority will need to be contacted for information relating to any children that are involved.
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office take the lead on deaths and investigations involving missing people that take place abroad.
- Public Health England is the lead agency for all health emergencies affecting the public, including advising on any 'bad' drug batches in circulation.



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