



ADDRESSING STALKING AND HARASSMENT



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

What is Stalking and Harassment?

Stalking and harassment involve repeated unwanted behaviour that causes someone to feel distressed, threatened or fearful. The behaviour usually needs to happen on two or more occasions and can occur in person, online, via phone or social media.

Stalking is a form of harassment but often involves fixated, obsessive and repeated behaviour towards a specific person, such as following them, monitoring their activities, repeatedly contacting them, or interfering with their property. Members of the public do not need to decide whether an incident is stalking or harassment before repeating it. Leicestershire police will assess the circumstances and determine what offences may apply.



Why Do Leicestershire Police Treat Stalking and Harassment as a Priority?

Leicestershire Police recognise that stalking and harassment can have a serious and lasting impact on victims' safety, wellbeing and quality of life. In some cases, offending can escalate and place victims at significant risk of harm.

The Force's priorities are to protect victims, investigate reports thoroughly, hold offenders accountable, reduce repeat victimisation and work with partners to prevent future offending. This approach supports wider commitments to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), supporting victims and keeping communities safe.

How Do I Report Stalking and Harassment?

Reports can be made **in person, by telephone or online**. From the first point of contact, police staff gather information to understand what has happened and assess any immediate risks.

Leicestershire Police use recognised assessment processes, including the THRIVE framework and the 'FOUR' principles of stalking behaviour (fixated, obsessive, unwanted, repeated). This helps officers identify risk early and decide the most appropriate response, ensuring victims receive support as quickly as possible.

Make a Report

Reports can be made to Leicestershire Police.

Report online by clicking below or by scanning the QR code.

[Report Stalking or Harassment](#)



How Do Leicestershire Police Assess Risk and Decide Which Need Urgent Attention?

Every report is assessed to understand the level of risk to the victim and anyone else who may be affected. Officers' complete specialist risk assessments, including DASH for domestic-related cases and S-DASH for non-domestic stalking cases.

Cases are then allocated according to their risk and complexity. More serious or high-risk cases may be managed by specialist investigation teams and receive additional oversight through force-wide risk management processes. This ensures resources are focused where they are needed most.

What Support and Safeguarding is Available for Victims and Survivors?

Supporting victims is a key part of the Force's approach. Officers complete a **Victim Needs Assessment** and, where appropriate, make referrals to specialist support services for practical and emotional support.

Police can also use a range of safeguarding measures including arrests, bail conditions, restraining orders, non-molestation orders and stalking protection orders (SPOs).

Victims may also receive advice on staying safe online where technology or social media forms part of offending. New Independent Stalking Advocates are also being introduced across Leicestershire and Rutland to strengthen specialist support for victims.

[Click here to access support for victims and witnesses of stalking and harassment.](#)

How Do Leicestershire Police Prevent Stalking and Harassment from Escalating?

The Force encourages people to report concerns early because stalking and harassment often become more serious over time. Early reporting helps officers identify warning signs and take action sooner.

Prevention measures include the use of Stalking and Protection Orders, proactive work by the Domestic Abuse Threat Assessment Unit, neighbourhood policing activity, offender management, and information sharing with partner agencies. Police can also intervene through warnings, safeguarding visits and problem-solving approaches before behaviour reaches a criminal threshold.

How Do Leicestershire Police Make Sure Their Approach Meets National Standards?

The Force's policies, procedures and training are based on national guidance developed by the College of Policing. Guidance is reviewed annually to ensure it reflects any changes in legislation, best practice or emerging trends, including online offending.

Leicestershire Police also complete the national NPCC and Crown Prosecution Service stalking and harassment evidence checklist for every case and regularly review performance through audits, quality assurance processes and management oversight.

What Challenges Does Leicestershire Police Face and How Are They Improving Their Response?

The Force recognises that stalking and harassment legislation can be complex, which can sometimes affect how incidents are identified and recorded. To address this, additional training has been provided to frontline officers and digital guidance has been added to the Force's **"At the Scene"** application.

Leicestershire Police are also working to increase confidence in the use of Stalking Protection Orders through dedicated stalking clinics and are strengthening victim support by introducing Independent Stalking Advocates. Performance monitoring shows progress is being made, with stalking and harassment outcome rates increasing over the last year, although the Force acknowledges there is more work to do to continue improving outcomes for victims.