

Victim personal statement scheme

Policy

Policy summary

West Yorkshire Police complies with Authorised Professional Practice (APP) which contains information to assist policing, and has established a local policy procedure to provide clear standards and guidelines, outlining the victim personal statement scheme which gives victims an opportunity to:

- describe the wider effects of the crime on them;
- express their concerns; and
- indicate whether or not they require any support.

A statement is in addition to the evidential statement.

Aim

The aim of the Victim Personal Statement Scheme (VPS) is to:

- provide a means by which a victim may make known their legitimate interests;
- give victims the chance to tell the Criminal Justice agencies, and other services dealing with their cases, how the crimes have affected them:
 - physically;
 - emotionally;
 - psychologically;
 - financially; or
 - in any other way; and
- provide the Criminal Justice agencies with a ready source of information on how the particular crime has affected the victim involved, to supplement other sources of available information.

Scope

All officers and police staff.

Compliance

Section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967
APP Prosecution and case management

Chapter 1 Definition

Victim

A victim is defined as "a person who has complained of the commission of an offence against themselves or their property".

The term includes bereaved relatives or partners (including same sex partners) in homicide and fatal road traffic cases, as well as parents or carers where the victim is a child or a vulnerable adult. It also includes small businesses

Large retailers or corporations do not come within the definition of victim. Road traffic offences where death or serious injury has occurred are also included in the scheme.

Chapter 2 Principles

General

The VPS scheme is divided into two stages:

- Stage 1 statement; and
- Stage 2 statement.

The stages are not necessarily related. The 'stage' label refers more to the point in time at which they are obtained, rather than the sequence.

Either statement may be made without the other and, in some cases, more than one Stage 2 statement may be provided. Conversely, a victim may choose not to make a VPS at all.

A VPS should be an addendum to the evidential statement. The VPS section should be clearly identified on the statement form by lining off the evidential section.

Information to be obtained

A Victim Personal Statement (VPS) should be used to report if the victim:

- wishes to be told about the progress of a case;
 - would like extra support (particularly if being a witness in a trial);
 - feels vulnerable or intimidated;
 - is worried about the offender being given bail (if the offender knows who they are);
 - feels racial hostility was part of the crime and how this has affected them;
 - feels they were victimised because of their faith, cultural background or disability and how this has affected them;
 - is considering claiming compensation from the offender for any injury, loss or damage they have suffered;
 - has suffered a worsening of any medical or social problems as a result of the crime; and
 - any other information they think may be helpful or relevant.
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Admin

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