



Lost or stolen firearms

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Document information

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This revised advice has been produced and approved by the NABIS and the National Criminal Use of Firearms Group. It has been approved by NCOCC and VPP portfolio lead. The operational implementation of all guidance and strategy will require operational choices to be made at local level in order to achieve the appropriate police response and this document should be used in conjunction with other existing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) produced by the College of Policing. It will be updated and re-published as necessary.

Any queries relating to this document should be directed to either the author detailed above or the Head of Knowledge and Communications at NABIS on 0121 626 7114

1. Lost or stolen firearms

The loss or theft of a firearm is a serious issue. Immediate action must be taken to understand the circumstances of the loss or theft.

Police priorities, upon receiving notification of a loss or theft should include:

- preventing harm to an innocent finder
- preventing harm to wider communities
- preventing the weapon falling into criminal hands
- identifying whether the crime is part of a series
- target hardening other locations that might be vulnerable to theft
- identifying and addressing wider vulnerabilities around safe storage
- identifying any precursor events that might have motivated the theft
- ensuring the details of the loss/theft, the weapons (including serial numbers) and ammunition stolen are disseminated to the ROCU/NABIS/CTU
- ensuring the home force firearms licensing department is notified
- instructing the firearms licensing department to undertake an immediate and detailed review of the certificate holder's licence
- commissioning a detailed investigation into the circumstances of the theft or loss to be undertaken by an appropriately trained detective
- undertake intelligence checks to identify potentially vulnerable persons
- undertake intelligence check for potential for more serious offending links to the lost/stolen firearms.