Lost or stolen firearms

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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.

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