

## **Kidnap for ransom (extract)**

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## Policy statement and principles

### What

Kidnap for ransom offences are high-risk, fast-moving investigations that require an immediate yet careful Police response.

This chapter applies to all staff who may need to respond to an initial complaint of kidnap for ransom.

### Why

The application of standard procedures and notification of the appropriate experts is critical to minimising this risk in the early stages of the investigation.

### How

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- Standard procedures for watchhouse or frontline staff, or for Communications Room staff will be followed.
- The senior CIB member on duty in the District must be alerted as soon as possible.

## Overview

### Purpose

This chapter provides the core guidance on investigative techniques used when dealing with kidnap for ransom crimes. It:

- applies primarily to crimes of kidnap for ransom as defined in section 209(a) of the Crimes Act 1961
- should only be used for kidnap offences where a ransom has been demanded and the hostage is still believed to be in danger. It should not be used for other kidnap offences where either:
  - no ransom has been demanded and no ransom demand is anticipated, or
  - the hostage has been reliably confirmed as having been released and is no longer at risk, or
  - abduction offences such as those involving the taking of a hostage for sexual intents, or the abduction of children for custodial reasons.

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### Definitions of terms used

An appreciation of the terms used in this chapter is vital. The most common and dangerous mistake is to confuse the term 'hostage' with 'victim'. Confusion over these could have life-threatening consequences. This table sets out definitions of terms used in this manual chapter.

Term	Definition
Hostage	An individual who has been kidnapped.
Informant	The person first notifying Police of the incident.
Offender	A person who is identified by a sufficiency of evidence, as being criminally liable for the offence.
Victim	A person or organisation against whom a demand is directed, following a kidnapping.

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## Initial reporting procedures

The initial complaint is often received via a 111 call but could be made to any Police communications centre, station, front counter or other public contact point including Internet.

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### Report made to watchhouse/frontline staff

Police employees taking the initial report of a kidnap for ransom by telephone, or at a Police station, must follow the instructions contained in the Kidnap for Ransom 'Watchhouse MSOP':

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 [Kidnap\\_-\\_Appendix\\_B\\_Watchhouse\\_MSOP.doc](#)

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Police employees must immediately inform their supervisor, who must notify the senior CIB member on call for the district.

### Report made to Emergency Communications Centre

Emergency Communications Centre staff who take an initial report of kidnap by telephone, must follow the instructions contained in the kidnap for ransom MSOP for 'Communications Room staff':

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 [Kidnap\\_-\\_Appendix\\_A\\_Comms\\_MSOP.doc](#)

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## Initial roles and responsibilities

### Senior CIB officer on call

The senior CIB officer must take initial command of the incident as soon as practically possible and:

- ensure initial reporting staff have followed procedures outlined in the relevant Kidnap for Ransom MSOP for Communications Room staff:

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[Kidnap\\_-\\_Appendix\\_A\\_Comms\\_MSOP.doc](#)

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or Watchhouse staff (whichever applies):

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