

Lincolnshire Police

Policy Document



Female genital mutilation policy PD 227

Policy document information

Reference number:	PD 227
Policy sponsor:	DCC
Policy owner:	Head of Crime – Detective Chief Supt Liz Rogers
Author:	Detective Superintendent Rachael Cox
Publication date:	January 2026
Review date:	January 2028

Version history

Version	Date	Reason for issue
1	June 2017	Adoption of APP
2	July 2019	Biennial Review
3	May 2021	LSCP website link added
4	July 2021	Review
5	July 2023	Review
6	Jan 2026	Review

Code of Ethics

All staff involved in carrying out functions under this policy and associated procedures and appendices will do so in accordance with the principles of the Code of Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public.

Legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Proportionality has been identified as the key to Human Rights compliance, this means striking a fair balance between the rights of the staff and those of the rest of the community. There must be a reasonable relationship between the aim to be achieved and the means used.

Equality and Diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our legal obligation in relation to the equality duty. In addition, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety Issues have been considered. Adherence to this policy or procedure will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

Other legislation/law which this policy has been drafted to comply with:

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [H&S legislation](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)

Security classification

Policy to be published on Intranet: Yes

Policy to be published on Force Website: Yes

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

This Policy has been checked against APP and Lincolnshire Police has adopted the provisions of APP as its Policy.

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>

1. Policy aims (Purpose)

- 1.1. This policy relates to all circumstances where Lincolnshire Police is involved in reports of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- 1.2. The policy is aimed at all police officers, police staff, Volunteers, Special Constables G4S strategic partner colleagues and includes staff who are contracted to the force.
- 1.3. The response of Lincolnshire Police to FGM reports / offences has four principle aims:
 - To protect the lives of both adults and children who are at risk as a result of FGM
 - To investigate all reports of FGM

- To facilitate effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system
- To adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing FGM

1.4. Lincolnshire Police will take firm action against those that commit FGM, whilst ensuring the provision of caring support for those who suffer it.

1.5. Definition and Types of FGM

FGM encompasses all procedures that involve the removal or injury of the female genital organs. The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies FGM into four major types:

Type I: Partial or total removal of the clitoral glans and/or the clitoral hood.

Type II: Partial or total removal of the clitoral glans and the labia minora, with or without removal of the labia majora.

Type III: Infibulation, which involves narrowing the vaginal opening by creating a seal, often through cutting and repositioning the labia.

Type IV: Other harmful procedures to the female genitalia, such as pricking, piercing, or scraping.

2. Policy statement (Key information)

2.1. The Authorised Professional Practice on Female Genital Mutilation is designed to raise awareness of, and demystify, the practice of FGM for officers and those they work with so that it can be more proactively prevented and prosecuted.

2.2. Effective ways of policing FGM are still be established, by both the police service and partner agencies, and other organisations. The content of the Authorised Professional Practice draws on material from a wide range of organisations and professionals to support officers and forces in developing their response to FGM.

- 2.3. Female genital mutilation, in any form, is recognised internationally as a gross violation of human rights of girls and women.
- 2.4. Tackling FGM brings with it many challenges for the service. The single most significant challenge is to ensure that every member of the service who may be the first point of contact for someone at risk or who has undergone FGM has sufficient understanding of what is required to begin that person's journey from victim to survivor.
- 2.5. The benefits of successfully implementing this policy include:
- Increased awareness and therefore potentially an increase in reports of FGM.
 - Increased prosecutions where possible i.e. through the mandatory reporting requirement by partner agencies in health, social care and education.
 - Increased community trust and confidence in the police.
 - Consistent service and response .
 - Effective partnership working i.e. through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board framework.

3. Other related documents and appendices

- 3.1. Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children's Board has partnership responsibility for the county's response to FGM. The county's procedures website contains the latest national and local procedures on FGM including the following important local documents:
- Advice for Regulated Professionals in Lincolnshire – FGM Mandatory Reporting Mechanism
 - Urgent Safeguarding / FGM Report – Calling Police
 - FGM – flow chart of information sharing
 - [Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership \(LSCP\) website](#)

All latest Home Office / Government documentation on FGM is available on [Female genital mutilation - GOV.UK](#) This includes:

- Multi Agency Statutory Guidance on FGM
- FGM Protection Orders (Factsheet)
- FGM Resource Pack

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1 This policy will be subject to on-going review by the Detective Superintendent PVP to ensure that any changes in legislation, guidance or procedures are incorporated as soon as possible. A formal review will be conducted biennially.

5. Who to contact about this policy

- 5.1. This policy is owned by Head of Crime, Detective Chief Superintendent Liz Rogers. Any enquires about this policy should be directed to Detective Superintendent Cox, PVP, Rachael.Cox@lincs.police.uk