

Working with journalists during Covid-19 outbreak

The National Police Chiefs Council Communications Advisory Group has agreed to these guidelines being circulated to, and adopted by, Police Forces in England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland.

It is NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED under the Government Protective Marking Scheme and any referrals for advice and rationale in relation to Freedom of Information Act disclosure should be made to the NPCC Central Referral Unit at npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk.

Document information

Protective marking:	NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/RESTRICTED
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National Policing Coordination Committee Area:	Communications Advisory Group
APP/Reference Material:	In addition to APP on media relations
Contact details:	S31 Law Enforcement
Review date:	June 2021
Version:	1

Police officers are likely to have contact with **journalists who will continue doing their job** during the Government's Covid-19 Coronavirus restrictions. **The following guidance outlines how this should be approached.**

- **Journalists are covered as key workers**
- **There is a public interest in keeping the population informed of the developing crisis and subsequent recovery / return to normality**
- **Responsible journalism promotes good community relations and assists the emergency services, which is essential in the current health emergency**
- **Journalists will be expected to carry a UK Press Card or other official record of employment**
- **Police will engage with them if officers are unsure why they are out.**
- **We will expect them to comply with the Public Health guidelines e.g. on numbers, social distancing, and if not we'll explain and encourage them to do so**

