

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Conducting Investigations
Status: Definitive
Code: **6307PS** (129345)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Justice Studies
Teaching School/Faculty: Justice Studies

Team	Leader
Richard Carr	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 55
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 145

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Summer

Component	Contact Hours
Online	55

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	2000 word Essay - Conduct complex investigations	40	1
Portfolio	Portfolio	Four tasks. Two short submissions and two observed sessions (2,500 words total)	60	1

Aims

Develop knowledge and understanding of the investigative process in a range of operational contexts.

Develop practical solutions to provide effective policing methods in this area whilst furthering their own competence within the pathway.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically assess the knowledge and skills required to conduct investigations. In doing so evidence an understanding the relevance of liaising with specialists in relation to cases.
- 2 Critically assess methods to balance the intricacies associated with victim and witness care during an investigation, taking into account any additional professional considerations.
- 3 Critically assess ways to ensure the well-being and resilience of the investigative team and self during an investigation.
- 4 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of victim, witness and suspect interviewing. Apply this knowledge to scenarios.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2000 word Essay	1	2	3
2500 words total	4		

Outline Syllabus

Relevant legislation.

Initial assessment and management of potential vulnerabilities of victim(s)/witness(es)/suspect(s).

Additional strategies that may be required to support the investigation. Use of media, mass screening etc.

Community considerations.

Briefing and de-briefing using recognised national formats.

Recording the tasking of others, including experts or specialist advisors. Conducting and prioritising fast-track responses in an auditable and retrievable format.

Role of internal specialists, including:

- *Crime Scene Investigator*
- *Digital or traditional forensics*
- *Digital Media Investigator*
- *Financial Investigator*
- *Senior Investigating Officer*
- *Firearms*

Covert methods and their use in an investigation.

Role of coroner.

Offender management – Guns and gangs.

Impact on and Support required for victims, including therapeutic support, consent issues and maintaining on-going support throughout the investigation.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Process. Welfare of self and others during an investigation

Role of the CPS, early engagement and pre-trial case conferences.

Social Media.
Police and the Community.
Role of the press officer/corporate communications.
Effective engagement with the Media.
Interviews of suspects in custody
Interview of witnesses

Learning Activities

Lectures, workshops and tutorials will be delivered 'live' in an online format and supported through the Canvas platform with other activities and Seminars. Lectures and workshops will be recorded to allow students to watch additionally beyond the lecture and workshop times.

Notes

Lectures will deliver the knowledge components to students. Directed study will reinforce areas. Workshops will provide opportunities to apply knowledge to scenarios and simulations.

Where relevant and appropriate the concept of evidence based policing will be introduced and its relevance in this context explained. There will also be reference to the College of Policing 'What Works' facility.

National Policing Curriculum
Indicative Content

Police Investigations

1.1 Relevant legislation, including legislation applicable in specific areas (e.g. Proceeds of Crime Act 2002)

1.2 Powers applicable to investigations, including: • Entry powers • Powers of arrest • Search powers • Powers of seizure including legal privilege • S8 warrants

1.3 Definitions of 'criminal investigations' and 'investigator'

1.4 Ethical considerations when conducting investigations

1.5 Evidence base behind investigative concepts

1.6 Knowledge and skills required

1.7 Investigative mind-set

1.8 Principles of an investigation: • Preserve life • Preserve scenes • Secure evidence • Identify victims • Identify suspects

1.9 Making decisions in an investigative context in accordance with the National Decision Model 2 Understand

the structure and processes in relation to conducting an investigation

2.1 Definitions of key terminology: • Investigative mind set • Best evidence • Material/information/intelligence • Disclosure

2.2 The stages of an investigation

2.3 How to develop an investigative hypothesis

2.4 Specialists who may be involved

3.1 What constitutes 'material', 'information', 'intelligence' or 'evidence'

3.2 Evidence-gathering opportunities: • Victims • Witnesses • Suspects • Crime

scenes (including physical and digital scenes of crime) • Passive data generators e. g. CCTV, data communication sources, banking and credit card records

4.1 Types of evidence

4.2 How digital technology can capture best evidence e.g. body-worn video cameras

5.1 Legislation to be considered during interviews, including: • PACE Code E - Audio Recording of Interviews • PACE Code F - Video Recording of interviews

5.2 The evidence base associated with the PEACE interview process

5.3 The principles of investigative interviewing

5.4 The PEACE interview process: • Planning and preparation • Engage and explain • Account clarification and challenge • Closure • Evaluation

5.5 Individuals who may need to be involved in interview process, including: • Interpreters • Legal advisors • Intermediaries

5.6 Non-verbal signals seen in interviews

6.1 Define 'volume and priority' crime and 'serious and complex' investigations

6.2 Specific considerations to be taken into account when dealing with the following investigations: • Anti-social behaviour and disputes • Hate crime (including the importance of proving hostility) • Public protection and domestic abuse • Roads policing (including road death investigation) • Public order • Firearms • Extremism • Terrorism

7.1 Role of specialists in retrieving information/intelligence or evidence from devices

8.1 Relevant legislation

8.2 Community considerations

8.3 Briefing and de-briefing using recognised national formats (i.e. IIMARCH, SAFCOM)

8.4 Role of internal specialists, including: • Crime Scene Investigator • Digital or traditional forensics specialists • Digital Media Investigator • Financial Investigator • Senior Investigating Officer

8.5 Additional investigative processes that may be required e.g. inquests

8.6 Role of coroner

9.1 Impact of trauma on victim(s) and witnesses involved in complex and serious offending

9.2 Support required for victims, including therapeutic support, consent issues and maintaining on-going support throughout the investigation

9.3 Professional support that may be involved

9.4 The role of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

9.5 Victim's right to review

10.1 Specific legislation applicable

10.2 Types of offending that will be serious and complex e.g. offences which: • Involve the use of violence, including weapons and firearms • Are sexual assaults • Can result in substantial financial gain • Cause substantial financial loss to the victim • Are conducted by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose

11.1 Role of the CPS, early engagement and pre-trial case conferences

11.2 Case discussions prior to engaging a specialist e.g. Forensic Medical Examiner

11.3 Logistics of disclosure during complex or major investigations e.g. case management systems and databases

11.4 Cold case reviews

Victims and Witnesses

1.1 Key legislation, codes of practice, guidance and policies when dealing with victims and witnesses:

- The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2015 (the Victims' Code)
- The Witness Charter
- Achieving Best Evidence 2011
- Criminal Procedures Rules

1.2 Ensuring victims and witnesses are dealt with fairly, with respect and in an ethical and non-biased manner:

- The Code of Ethics
- Procedural justice

1.3 Measures available to protect victims and witnesses:

- Criminal disclosures
- Measures applicable to victims of domestic abuse, stalking etc.

1.4 Purpose of protection orders:

- Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)
- Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) etc.

1.5 Impact of proceedings on victims and witnesses (or families)

- Coronial processes
- Family court proceedings

2.1 Key terms associated with victims and witnesses

- Difference between victim and complainant
- Victimisation
- Poly-victimisation
- Repeat victimisation
- Alpha victims
- Coercion

2.2 Range of psychological effects on victim and witness behaviour:

- Denial, detachment, anxiety, panic, irritability, minimisation, avoidance, withdrawal, loss of memory, disorientation, confusion etc.

2.3 Impact of re-victimisation on victims and witnesses where they are not dealt with appropriately from the outset of an investigation

2.4 Impacts of investigations on the investigator e.g. investigator fatigue

- Empathy fatigue, mindlessness, bias and stereotyping

2.5 Relationships between victims, witnesses and offenders

- The responses and steps to manage these e.g. if victims are an ethnic minority, LGBT+, female, foreign nationals or migrants, elderly, dependent on the offender etc.
- Signs and signals of how relationships between offenders and victims may subsequently develop and change
- Learning that can be obtained from reviews into cases such as serious crime reviews, domestic homicide reviews and disaster reviews, regarding offender and victim relationships

3.1 Different categories of victim and witness:

- Crime, abuse, trauma and disaster
- What to consider when dealing with different categories of victim and witness

3.2 Enabling a victim or witness to give their best evidence:

- Tools and techniques that can be used to build rapport and obtain information
- Involving the victim and witness in the decision-making process

3.3 The choices and autonomy available to victims in pursuing an outcome and what to do should they not support, or wish to pursue, a formal criminal justice outcome

3.4 Keeping the victims and witnesses updated on the investigatory process

3.5 The police role in triaging (signposting) victims and witnesses to specialist support

- Safeguarding services and agencies e.g. MASH

4.1 The legitimacy of the police and policing by consent:

- Victim and witness understanding of the role of the police

4.2 Personal and professional communication skills required to support the victim and witness, including:

- Active listening
- Non-verbal communication (NVC)
- Knowing what and what not to say e.g. differentiating between empathy and sympathy

4.3 Behavioural skills that can provide additional support to victims and witnesses e.g.

- Acting with compassion, empathy and kindness

4.4 Understanding the victim's account in terms of completeness, coherence and accuracy

4.5 Legal concepts of reliability and credibility and the impact on those of assumptions around vulnerability

5.1 Accurately identifying victims and witnesses and applying early considerations around key, significant, vulnerable or intimidated victims or witnesses

5.2 How to conduct an early needs assessment and refer victim and/or witness to appropriate support agencies, if necessary e.g.

- Women's Aid
- Action Fraud

5.3 Take an initial account from victims and witnesses

- The details required
- Taking victims and witnesses concerns seriously
- Support that may be required to enable an initial account to be made

5.4 Strategies to safeguard, manage risk and refer the victim care to appropriate specialist agencies/telecoms operators:

- Victim support
- Hate crime support
- Independent domestic abuse advisors

5.5 Immediate actions that may be appropriate to help reduce further victimisation

5.6 Continuity in dealing with victims and witnesses

- Safety
- Protection

6.1 Specific considerations when supporting different categories of victims and witness e.g. those of:

- Crime

- Abuse
- Trauma
- Disaster

6.2 How a victim's or witness's vulnerability may change:

- Ongoing review
- Assessment of needs

6.3 Involvement of multi-agency professionals in building comprehensive victim risk assessments e.g. where victims:

- Have dependents
- Are primary carers
- May be the parents of further victims or witnesses

6.4 Impact of investigative activity on victims, including:

- Expert witnesses
- Managing 'difficult' messages
- Managing uncooperative or hostile victims

6.5 Principles of victim consent and their right to privacy:

- Adhering to DPP Guidance
- The right to withdraw consent at any time

6.6 Legitimacy of victim and witness and defence accounts, to conduct balanced, unbiased investigations in search of the truth

6.7 How family liaison can provide additional information regarding support to officers in providing victim care:

- Reducing the potential for victims to become dependent on the police
- Creating an exit strategy
- Managing complaints, sharing good practice and lessons learned

Learning Outcomes

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11