

Victoria Police Manual – Policy Rules

Public order

Context

One of the key roles of police is to maintain public order and protect the public. This function encompasses a broad range of activities but is the main role of police where large numbers of people congregate (licensed premises and major events) or where persons engage in anti-social behaviour (noise complaints and hoon driving).

In order to manage such public order incidents appropriately, effectively, and safely these Policy Rules (and supporting procedures and guidelines) have been developed to provide direction to members when undertaking public order policing.

Application

Policy Rules are mandatory and provide the minimum standards that employees must apply. Non-compliance with or a departure from a Policy Rule may be subject to management or disciplinary action. Employees must use the **Professional and ethical standards** to inform the decisions they make to support compliance with Policy Rules.

These Policy Rules apply to:

- Operational members
- Operational supervisors
- Work Unit Managers
- Local Area Commanders

Rules and Responsibilities

1. Liquor licensing accountabilities

1.1 Accountabilities

Licensing Inspector - has particular responsibilities under the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998. Local Area Commanders must perform the Licensing Inspector role for their PSA.

Liquor Licensing Unit (LLU) – is a police section within the Operations support division, Transit and Public Safety Command, that is located with the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR). LLU provides specialist advice to Victoria Police, coordinates and oversees all liquor licence applications, prepares Requests for Inquiry against licensees and licensed premises and prosecutes liquor licensing on behalf of the Chief Commissioner and Licensing Inspectors.

1.2 *Liquor licence checks*

- When a liquor application that is lodged with the VCGLR and a copy is served on police, the LLU will forward a copy of the application to the relevant Licensing Inspector.
- Licensing Inspectors are responsible for assessing liquor licensing applications.
- Procedures for assessing liquor applications are provided in the Victoria police Liquor Licensing Reference Guide.

2. Regulation of licensed premises

2.1 *Supervision of licensed premises*

To ensure compliance with the *Liquor Control Reform Act*, Work Unit Managers are responsible for the supervision of licensed premises in their area. Report any breaches detected or brought to notice to the relevant Licensing Inspector. Obtain specialist assistance from the LLU.

2.2 *Recording*

Any visits to or action taken against licensed premises or incidents in or around licensed premises must be recorded in accordance with **VPMG Liquor control**.

2.3 *Enforcement action*

- If any breach of legislation related to liquor licensing or public order is detected on licensed premises, police must have the licensee, nominee or person left in charge present while questions are being asked. The licence or permit must be inspected.
- Infringement notices may be issued for most offences under the *Liquor Control Reform Act*. Refer to **VPMG Liquor control** for guidance.
- Only Licensing Inspectors may approve the withdrawal of infringement notices in accordance with the process in **VPMG Liquor control**.
- A number of options are available for the management of licensed premises, including lock outs, banning notices and exclusion orders, or liquor accords refer to **VPMG Liquor control and the Victoria Police Liquor Licensing Reference Guide** for guidance.

3. Public CCTV

3.1 *Establishment*

Station OICs may contribute to the assessment, planning, implementation and placement of local public CCTV monitoring schemes.

3.2 *MOUs*

- Before any CCTV equipment is placed on police premises an MOU must be entered into incorporating the requirements at section 3.3.
- Requests for development of MOUs must be submitted to Legal Services Department.

3.3 *Conditions*

Placement of CCTV monitoring equipment must be on the following conditions:

- Victoria Police will not undertake to continuously monitor CCTV.
- Victoria Police have responsibility for determining the appropriate level and priority of responses required to incidents identified by the CCTV cameras, according to available resources and existing priorities.
- The CCTV system is not to be connected to Victoria Police systems or networks unless approved by the Victoria Police IT Security Advisor.
- the CCTV equipment is owned by the operator and all digital images generated by it remain the property of the operator.
- all costs associated with the establishment, maintenance, repair, replacement, management and security of the equipment will be met by the CCTV operator; State Emergencies and Security Command are exempt from this instruction.
- public complaints or media queries relating to the operation of the system will be directed to the operator

3.4 *Management of images*

- Where CCTV recording equipment is located on police premises, it is subject to the **VPMP Appropriate use of information, VPMP Information access, VPMP Physical security, VPMP Information use, handling and storage and VPMP Information review, retention and disposal.**
- All images retrieved by police must be obtained having regard to the requirements of the MOU and **VPM Recording devices, CCTV and digital asset management.** Once obtained, all footage from CCTV equipment is recognised as law enforcement data and is to be managed in accordance with **VPM Recording devices, CCTV and digital asset management.**

4. Other public order matters

4.1 *Crowd control*

In regard to managing demonstrations, protests, picket lines, industrial disputes, marches, procession, sporting, entertainment or community events, refer to **VPM Crowd control and public order incidents.**

4.2 **Noise complaints**

In relation to managing noise complaints and gate crashing, have regard to **VPMG Noise complaints**

4.3 **Vehicle impoundment (hoon driving)**

Refer to **VPM Road policing - enforcement**.

4.4 **Policing beats**

In policing beats have regard to **VPMG Policing beat locations**.

Quick Links

- VPMG Liquor control
- VPM Crowd control and public order incidents
- VPMG Noise complaints
- VPM Road policing - enforcement
- VPMG Policing beats

Further Advice and Information

For further advice and assistance regarding these Policy Rules, contact your supervisor or local Licensing Inspector.

Update history

Date of first issue	22/2/10	
Date updated	Summary of change	Force File number
16/03/12	CCI 02/11 incorporated into VPM	065130/10
16/09/2013	New section 3 added including policy in regard to the monitoring and installation of public CCTV systems in police stations	FF 068033/11
18/11/13	References to redundant instruments following IMSSD review have been updated with corresponding new instruments.	069562/11
22/12/2014	Name changes to correct references to the VCGLR and its location.	091553
13/10/2022	Cross reference updated to new VPM Road policing-enforcement	FF 190724 2
01/12/2023	Consequential amendment resulting from the <i>Sex Work Decriminalisation Act 2022</i>	FF-231871
1/07/2024	Amended references to VPM Crowd control and public	FF - 252202

	order incidents and text exclusion.	
26/08/24	Administrative amendment as a result of newly published VPM Recording devices, CCTV and digital asset management.	FF-236615