

19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 3RR

Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

BY EMAIL

26 September 2023

Dear Deputy Curtis,

Missing Person appeals

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2023 regarding missing persons appeals. I write in response to the two areas that you raised in your letter. Please find the relevant information below.

Relevant policies used by the States of Jersey Police (SoJP) when issuing an appeal for a missing person.

I can confirm that there isn't a specific written SoJP policy document that governs the release of media appeals in connection with Missing Persons (Misper) investigations.

SoJP follow the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) ([Missing persons | College of Policing](#)) in respect of Misper investigations. The APP has specific sections covering both media and risk assessments which SoJP adhere to where relevant.

Please note that some of the sections in the APP refer to tools and/or resources we do not have access to or use of locally.

Before issuing an appeal for a missing person, how do SoJP assess any risk to: i) the missing person; ii) members of the public?

SoJP's in house record system has a facility whereby when a new Misper record is created, a number of questions must be completed with as much information as possible at the time of reporting.

These questions are designed as a risk assessment which will form part of the Misper record and this will be updated constantly as the investigation progresses.

As and when new information comes in, it is reviewed in case it changes the risk to either the Misper or the public. It is a dynamic situation where the flow of information may change the strategy in respect of press and media appeals and what is contained in such appeals.

Each Misper investigation is treated on its own merits and the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), will record their rationale for issuing media appeals and what the content will be, this would include consideration of risk assessment and other factors. They may avoid divulging specific vulnerabilities e.g. criminal proceedings, if that is likely to expose or increase the risk of harm to the missing person, particularly if the nature of the offending would not put the public at risk. In all cases, SoJP

will use the National Decision Model (NDM), risk principles and code of ethics in any decision making.

I hope that this provides the Panel with the information requested, should any further information be required please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Miles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue dot above the 'i' in Miles.

Deputy Helen Miles
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs