



**IP73**

**UNOCCUPIED STOLEN VEHICLE  
RECOVERY**

**IP73**

Effective Date: 18 May 2017  
Last Reviewed/Revised Date: 20 March 2024\*

**POLICY**

1. Persons driving a stolen vehicle generally present a greatly increased risk to the public, and a suspected or confirmed stolen vehicle located parked and unoccupied is to be prevented from being further driven, by having it towed to a secure storage facility for subsequent investigation.
2. Despite the above, if reasonable grounds exist to believe that allowing the vehicle to be further driven will better ensure the safety of one or more persons at specific risk, or the public, the vehicle may be allowed to be further driven, in order to facilitate an investigation and possible suspect arrest.
3. The Chief Constable shall provide Procedures, pursuant to this Policy, regarding when a vehicle may be allowed to be further driven, and the management of secured vehicles.

**REASON FOR POLICY**

4. To seek to reduce the risk posed by drivers of stolen vehicles, while recognizing that, in certain situations, that risk is less than the risk mitigated by the possibility of arresting persons allowed to further drive a stolen vehicle.

**RELATED POLICIES**

- IM10 – Criminal Investigations
- IM61 – Traffic Enforcement, Management & Towing
- IP72 – Vehicle Disabling (Tire & Exhaust Devices)
- IR11 – Police Vehicle Pursuit

**PROCEDURES**

5. A member who locates a parked vehicle, suspected or confirmed stolen, must:

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**Unoccupied Stolen Vehicle Recovery**

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- a) remain with the vehicle and not allow it to be further driven, unless the Duty Officer or Staff Sergeant directs otherwise, based on the factors set out in Section 7;
  - b) call for the vehicle to be towed and remain with the vehicle until this has taken place, or arrange for a covert unit to remain with the vehicle; and
  - c) request a forensic examination of the vehicle, if it is towed for investigation.
6. A member may, with the Staff Sergeant's approval, and only if a vehicle has been disabled and determined not able to be driven, conduct surveillance to identify persons returning to a vehicle.

7. [Redacted]

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