



Op Hampshire

Assault or Injury on Duty?

We know that you regularly face confrontational situations in some of the most unpredictable scenarios in your general duties. Unfortunately that means there's always a risk that you will get injured, assaulted or both.

When that happens, it's really important that we know about it so we can give you the support you need and deserve. So it's key that you report it correctly, on the right system.

There are generally two systems that we use for reporting assaults and injuries but they are separate and we use them differently.

CRIS (or Force version) is obviously to record crimes, and eSafety (or force version) is to record injuries and near misses as part of our H&S legal obligations. In some cases they overlap. Reporting on these systems is not optional, it's mandatory.

Yes, it can mean repetition but it's important to get right. Why?

The figures generated from both platforms help us understand what has happened to our colleagues as soon as possible. They help us inform tactics and training and prepare for the next time. They help us accurately inform others such as the Home Office and the media of what it is our colleagues face. They help us support you and your colleagues.

Assault v Injury on Duty

Clearly not all assaults result in injury and conversely not all injuries are as a result of an assault. It is important that we assess and accurately record assault and injuries correctly so that the most appropriate investigation can be conducted be that criminal or health and safety focussed.

Assaults

In evidencing an assault, it is important to show that the suspect carried out an intentional act. This evidence could be something said by the suspect before the assault or a witness/victim account of a deliberate act (e.g. slapping, punching, kicking, spitting etc). Ultimately, every assault or injury needs to be assessed on its merits and if there is no clear deliberate or obvious intent to cause harm then the issue of recklessness will need to be carefully assessed to ensure we record the incident accurately.

Injury on Duty

Examples of incidents which would amount to an injury on duty but not an assault could include:

- Restraining a suspect on the floor who is resisting and receiving a graze to the knee.
- A cut to the hand sustained whilst cuffing a suspect.
- A scrape on the knuckles on a wall whilst arresting a suspect.
- Pulled ligaments or sprains when a suspect tears themselves away from an officers grasp in order to resist arrest.

There is no legal definition of 'resisting arrest' and the term 'resist' does not imply assault. A suspects who pulls themselves away from an officer who is attempting to detain them does not necessarily commit an assault regardless of whether an injury occurred as a result.

Consideration should be given as to the intention of the suspect in each case as this will be key as to whether the incident is an assault or an injury on duty.

Reporting

- Assaults without injury need to be reported on CRIS only. This includes being struck by a missile or bottle etc. That is still an assault even if you cannot see who threw it.
- Assaults with injury need to be reported on CRIS and eSafety (the Met's H&S platform). This is a requirement not a request.
- Injuries on Duty that are not a result of assault (trips/falls, etc.) need to be reported on eSafety but not CRIS.
- If you come into contact with bodily fluid e.g. spat or coughed at, then both an e-Safety (Potential work related ill health issue) and CRIS report need to be created.

The bottom line is if you're injured in any way (assault/trip/fall) it needs to go on eSafety. If you're assaulted, whether you're injured or not, it goes on CRIS. If you're assaulted and injured it goes on both.

You'll also need to inform a supervisor as they need to ensure these incidents are captured.

And you must ensure assaults and injuries are correctly and promptly recorded before going off duty.

There is an element of personal responsibility in all this and the more we know the better equipped we are to support you.

There is lots more information and documentation around Operation Hampshire available
our website: oscarkilo.org.uk/OpHampshire



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