



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Criminal Harassment
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2022-02-01

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the required necessary information, pursuant to By-Law Number 220-2000 relating to investigations into Criminal Harassment.
- The Niagara Regional Police Service maintains written procedures concerning Criminal Harassment investigations.
- The Niagara Regional Police Service is in compliance with the written procedures concerning Criminal Harassment investigations.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

By-Law 220-2000, the By-Law respecting investigations into Criminal Harassment, was enacted as a result of the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations LE-028 Criminal Harassment. This By-Law details specific requirements that are reported as follows:

The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into Criminal Harassment. The report shall include:

- a. A summary of written procedures concerning investigations into criminal harassment; and
- b. Confirmation of Service compliance with the said procedures.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above noted requirements.

- a. "... a summary of the written procedures concerning investigations into Criminal Harassment"

General Order 021.07 Criminal Harassment was prepared and approved to comply with By-Law 220-2000 with respect to procedures governing Criminal Harassment investigations.

The General Order includes the following information:

1. Definitions of terms contained within the General Order;
 2. General information as to the definition of Criminal Harassment as well as the police response to such complaints;
 3. Responsibilities of the Communications Unit and in particular the complaint taker and dispatcher;
 4. Responsibilities of the investigating officer, and;
 5. Responsibilities of the officer in charge.
- b. "Confirmation of Service compliance with the said procedures."

The following procedures validate the Service's response to Criminal Harassment complaints:

1. Criminal Harassment incidents are monitored by Communications Unit personnel who ensure an appropriate Police response to all reported incidents. Patrol Supervisors are also tasked with ensuring investigations are conducted in accordance with applicable General Orders.
2. While investigating any complaint of Criminal Harassment which stems from a domestic violence incident, Officers shall also comply with the procedures established in General Order 114.13 entitled Domestic/Family Violence.
3. Initial occurrence reports are submitted by the reporting Officer to the Quality Assurance Unit for review. In cases where charges are laid by the original uniform Officer, a supervisory review of the completed crown brief is also conducted.
4. Following the review by the Quality Assurance Unit, the report is either routed back to the initial investigating Officer for completion of the investigation or to the District Detective Services Unit Detective Staff Sergeant or Detective Sergeant for review and/or further investigation.

5. In cases where there is a previous or existing relationship of an intimate nature, the report is forwarded to the Domestic Violence Unit for review and/or further investigation.
6. Crime Analysts within the Special Victims Unit monitor incoming reports and ensure compliance regarding the completion of a Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) submission report.
7. Completed investigations are again subject to supervisory review before a matter is closed, either by charge or otherwise in accordance with CCJS requirements.
8. As part of the mandated Provincial Adequacy Standards, Criminal Harassment training is a component of the Domestic Violence Investigators course.

The present Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Versadex Records Management Systems provides an accurate reference as to how many calls for service the Niagara Regional Police Service receives on a yearly basis, including calls regarding allegations of Criminal Harassment.

The following chart helps illustrate our compliance with the written procedures by detailing the number of Criminal Harassment investigations conducted by the Service over the last three years and the manner in which they were cleared.

Year	Reports	Charges	Unfounded	Cleared Otherwise	Not Cleared
2017	152	54	30	19	49
2018	176	55	46	22	53
2019	205	58	62	16	69
2020	288	56	43	38	151
2021	374	77	66	32	199

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of the Niagara Regional Police Services Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the Provincial Adequacy Standards.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 220-2000
General Order 021.07 Criminal Harassment

Other Pertinent Reports

Item 7.5 on June 2021 PSB meeting – Annual Report - Criminal Harassment January 1 to December 31, 2020

This report was prepared by Staff Sergeant Christopher Lemaich, 2 District Detective Offices, in consultation with Inspector Mario Lagrotteria, 2 District Commander, reviewed by Superintendent Marco Giannico, District Operations, and recommended by Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M. #5835
Chief of Police

Appendices

Not Applicable