

Residential burglary

This page is from APP, the official source of professional practice for policing.

First published 4 October 2023 Updated 9 October 2023

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All Home Office police forces will attend every residential burglary of a home, as agreed by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in October 2022.

The police have a responsibility to work with partners, homeowners and communities to:

- bring offenders to justice
- reduce the fear of burglary
- ensure that victims receive a professional response
- prevent offences taking place

Even where it is not possible to identify a suspect, victims want to know the crime has been taken seriously, and that police have taken all reasonable steps to identify and arrest the perpetrator and recover any stolen property.

See a full definition of residential burglary in our [Residential burglary practice guide](#).

An effective police response

An effective police response to residential burglary should include:

- attendance to all residential burglaries
- development of intelligence to respond to emerging crime hot spots and help to identify and arrest prolific offenders
- a victim-focused approach
- effective use of golden hour and further investigation actions, following all reasonable lines of enquiry
- making timely arrests when appropriate to facilitate search and seizure opportunities and recover stolen goods
- making effective use of pre- and post-charge bail options to reduce further offending
- using 'taking into consideration' opportunities where appropriate

- recovering stolen property where possible
- developing crime prevention and reduction initiatives, problem solving and offender disruption

Further information

For further information see:

- our [**Residential burglary practice guide**](#)
- [**Interventions for situational crime prevention**](#) from our Neighbourhood crime evidence briefing
- our Domestic burglary evidence briefing

These resources should be read in conjunction with the other sections of this [APP on Investigation](#).

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