

STATE CRIME COMMAND



HOMICIDE SQUAD LEADERSHIP OF HOMICIDE AND SUSPICIOUS DEATH INVESTIGATIONS



1. For the first 72 hours of an investigation into a homicide or suspicious death a detective from the Homicide Squad should be the leading investigator, unless and until the Homicide Squad decides otherwise. During this time a formal assessment will be completed by the on call Homicide Squad Inspector. This assessment will be recorded on the Homicide Squad Assessment sheet and will include reasons for returning investigation to a Local Area Command.
2. During the first 72 hour period the investigative team should include an appointed team leader from the relevant Local Area Command who possesses appropriate experience or qualifications to potentially lead the investigation. Current protocols and Standard Operating Procedures that are in place within each Region with respect to Region Response to major crime and investigations are to remain unchanged. The responsibility for costs associated with Region Response deployments also remains unchanged.
3. At the end of the 72 hour period (or such earlier time as the Homicide Squad determines that it should no longer lead the investigation), the Homicide Squad should, in consultation with the relevant Local Area Command or Commands, determine which unit of the Police Force should continue the investigation and, if that unit is not the Homicide Squad, determine whether or not a Homicide Squad detective should be part of the investigating team.
4. If the Homicide Squad has determined that it should no longer continue to lead the investigation of a suspicious death or homicide, it should continue to have authority, after consultation with the relevant unit of the Police Force, to take over the leadership of the investigation or to assign a detective to the team conducting the investigation. The authority to reconsider leadership of an investigation rests with the Homicide Squad.
5. Throughout the investigation of a homicide or suspicious death, designated officers of the Homicide Squad should have access to e@gle.i entries regarding the investigation, even if the investigation is not being conducted by the Homicide Squad.
6. If the investigation of a homicide or suspicious death is being led or conducted by an officer other than an officer from the Homicide Squad, that officer must, 30 days after the investigation began, and at such times as the Homicide Squad might require, submit to the Homicide Squad a report on the investigation. The required format for this report is available on the Homicide Squad intranet site.
7. A decision that an investigation of a homicide or suspicious death should not be led by the Homicide Squad should not prevent the investigation from having access to the resources and expertise of the Homicide Squad (or other parts of the Police Force) and in such cases, there should be clear procedures for requesting such assistance (*SCC Request for Assistance forms located on the SCC intranet site*).