

## **ACHIEVING BEST EVIDENCE - VULNERABLE AND INTIMIDATED WITNESSES POLICY**

### **1.0 Policy Statement**

1.1 British Transport Police (BTP) will comply with the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 and all other relevant legislation to ensure that it achieves best evidence from individuals classed as vulnerable or intimidated victims/witnesses. Special measures will be used in criminal proceedings to facilitate a conducive environment for the eliciting of cogent evidence. Such measures can include the removal of wigs and gowns in court proceedings or screening witnesses from an accused.

### **2.0 Overview**

- 2.1 This policy replaces the previous policy document reference D59340.
- 2.2 This policy stems from the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 and the Government issued report called "Speaking up for Justice".
- 2.3 This policy will apply to all BTP Police Officers and Police Staff.
- 2.4 This policy applies in England and Wales.

### **3.0 Applicable Date, Monitoring and Review**

- 3.1 This policy is applicable from 29 August 2006.
- 3.2 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.



#### **4.0 Ownership**

4.1 This policy is owned by ACC Crime.

4.2 Any queries related to this policy should be directed to the Detective Chief Superintendent at FHQ.

#### **5.0 Associated Documents**

5.1 Achieving Best Evidence - Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses Standard Operating Procedures

5.2 The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

5.3 The ABE Evidence Manual

5.4 BTP Victims Code of Practice Policy

5.5 BTP No Witness No Justice Witness Care Units Policy