

Texting 61016 for sexual offences

If you want to tell us about an incident that doesn't require an emergency response you can text us on 61016 to let us know what happened, where it happened and when.

We completely understand that if you experience unwanted sexual behaviour, you might want to forget about it and move on. However reporting can help us stop it from happening again. No incident is considered small or trivial, as our officers are trained to deal with all sorts of cases. You will always be taken seriously.

By texting 61016 you can report any behaviour that makes you feel uncomfortable or report if you witness an incident, such as:

- Touching/Groping
- Rubbing against someone
- Masturbation
- Someone exposing themselves
- Taking photos of a sexual nature without consent
- Sexual comments
- Leering
- Indecent acts

You don't have to prove that it was a criminal offence or an intentional act to report it; we will investigate all that for you.

Always dial 999 when you need an urgent police response, in instances such as:

- A crime is happening right now
- Someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- Someone is injured, being threatened or in danger

The 61016 text number is monitored 24/7 and whilst we aim to respond as soon as possible, it's best to use 999 if an immediate police response is required.

You can also email: first_contact@btp.police.uk or call 0800 40 50 40

A person texts 61016 to say they recognise an individual on their train from when they were sexually assaulted some time ago.

Officers met the train and arrested the individual.

1 Send a text to 61016

What happened?

E.g. Groped by slim-build, tall white man wearing a red tie...

Where?

E.g. ...on-board Northern line tube travelling Northbound between Oval and Kennington...

When?

E.g. ...on Monday 19 February at 8:45 am.

Include any details you feel would assist in identifying the individual.

Don't worry if you are not able to provide these specific details; any information you are able to provide can help us to build a picture of an offender when we put these reports together.

You can also text us anonymously if you wish. You don't have to include your name or any identifying details in your text. We will not attempt to find out who you are if you have sent a text anonymously; however, there may be rare occasions where this is absolutely necessary.

**Your mobile service provider may issue a small charge*

2 Text received by our First Contact Centre

The Contact Handler will create an incident log with all of the information contained within the text and forward it to our Force Control Room for an initial police response.

3 Text back to confirm that your message was received

If you are reporting a live, ongoing incident you will be given a log number and told that we will call you on your mobile number shortly. If you cannot take that call please let us know.

You could also be asked specific questions to help with the initial police response. If it is safe for you to do so, we may ask you to send an image or video of the person you are contacting us about - to 61016@btp.pnn.police.uk - along with the log number to help us link the image/ video to the text log.

If you are at a railway station or on the train and you see our officers, you may be asked to make yourself known to them - but only if you feel safe and comfortable to do so - as this will help our initial investigation.

If you are telling us about something which not happening right now, you will be given a log number and told that we will call you shortly. If you cannot take the call please let us know.



What happens next?

4 Phone call back to gather further information

6 If the offender is caught

If we find and arrest the offender, a further investigation process will occur that we may ask you to assist us with and a decision will be made about whether the person should be charged. If they are, they will have to appear in court.

5 Giving a statement

After you've made a report we may ask you to make a formal statement if you wish to make one but you don't have to. You don't have to go to a police station - we can visit you where you feel most comfortable. We won't tell your parents/partner but you might choose to. However, if you're under 18, you'll need a guardian with you when you make your statement.

If you don't want to make a statement you don't have to, but giving one can help us identify and catch offenders and prevent others from experiencing unwanted sexual behaviour.

7 Going to court

We will support you through any subsequent prosecution, should that result in a court case or otherwise. If the offender is caught and pleads not guilty, there will be a hearing. We will support you through the criminal justice process.