

WhatsApp Group Guidance

Purpose

To share timely information on suspicious activity or rural crime, improve awareness, and support community safety. The group complements – but does not replace – formal crime reporting.

Who the group is for

Farmers, landowners, estate staff, rural workers, and residents with a direct interest in the defined area.

What the group is used for

- Sharing alerts about suspicious vehicles, persons, or activity
- Notifying members of crimes in progress or recent incidents
- Encouraging vigilance and preventative action

What the group is NOT for

- General chat, rumours, or speculation
- Naming suspects or sharing unverified information
- Political discussion or confrontational advice

Posting guidance

Include clearly:

- **WHAT** – suspicious activity
- **WHERE** – exact location
- **WHEN** – time seen
- **DETAILS** – description, vehicle, direction of travel

Admin responsibilities

- Approve and vet members
- Enforce rules consistently
- Remove inappropriate posts
- Keep a record of membership and consent

Data protection and GDPR

- Members must give explicit consent before being added
- Mobile numbers are visible to all group members
- Only share personal data where strictly necessary for safety
- Do not name private individuals or share excessive detail
- Members can leave at any time and request removal of their data
- WhatsApp is a third-party platform with its own privacy terms

Reporting crime

- Emergencies or crimes in progress: 999
- Non-emergencies: 101 or online reporting

WhatsApp alerts are not official crime reports.



Review

Admins should review membership and re-share rules every 3–6 months.