

Stop
Off
Road
Nuisance

GMPA Registration Scheme



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Off-road Registration Scheme

The issue of off-road motorcycle nuisance has been identified as an area of public concern via public consultation mechanisms, and GMPA identified that a registration scheme would be a useful tool to help combat the growing problem of anti-social behaviour related to the illegal use of off-road motorcycles.

The police authority believe that, as it is a strategic organisation, it can adopt the role in relation to off-road nuisance as campaigner for an off-road registration scheme. The police authority should also be able to fulfil a role of bringing partnerships together to enable a joined-up approach to problem solving and also to engage with the public about the issue.

The primary aim of the off-road scrutiny project being undertaken by the authority, therefore is to achieve the establishment of a mandatory, retrospective and continuous off-road registration scheme as the authority believed that it would deliver the following benefits:

Increased enforcement powers for the criminal justice system

Currently there is little scope for establishing the owner of a particular bike. If an individual is causing a nuisance with an off-road motorcycle and the motorcycle is seized under the Police Reform Act, another individual can claim the motorcycle back without penalty if they claim that they are the owner and have no knowledge of the nuisance being caused. A registration scheme would establish the registered keeper and identify the bike at first contact.

Consumer Protection

Currently, consumers have no way of knowing whether or not they are buying stolen property, as there are no requirements to provide documentation. A registration scheme would ensure that keeper records were logged and traceable. Consumers could expect the correct documentation to be available at the point of sale.



Reduction in the illegal stolen off-road motorcycle market.

There is no way of knowing the size of the illegal market in stolen off-road motorcycles. Most purchasers do not log the frame or engine numbers which can allow easier identification of stolen property. Judging from the motorcycles seized in GMP, many bikes have the engine / frame numbers defaced. A registration scheme would also allow easier prosecution of those found to be handling stolen goods e.g. in possession of a motorcycle without documentation.

Improvements to police intelligence

If a report of off-road motorcycle nuisance is received, a description of the bike would be able to be used to search for similar bikes registered in the local area, therefore improving the likelihood of identifying the perpetrator.

For further information on the registration scheme please contact the project leader, Alison Hannen.

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