

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS FAQ'S

I have been in a road traffic collision and nobody was injured and we both stopped, do I need to report it to the police?

If both parties have stopped at the scene and exchanged details then there is no requirement to report it to the police. Road traffic law has been complied with.

How long do I have to report a collision to the police?

Reportable road traffic accidents have to be reported as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any case, within 24 hours. Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 requires drivers involved in certain traffic collisions, which occur on the road or other public place to report the accident in person at a police station, or to a constable.

Do I have to report a collision to my insurance company?

Yes, you should report all collisions to your insurance company even if you were not at fault. The insurance company bases your quote and policy on information provided to them and if that changes it could invalidate your insurance policy.

Do I have to report a collision that happened in a car park to the police?

If you're the driver of a car, motorcycle, bus or lorry that's involved in a collision on a road or public place and someone is injured and/or damage is caused to another vehicle, someone else's property, or an animal has been killed or injured, you must stop and provide your details and in some cases produce your insurance certificate. If you don't you must report the matter to the police – it's against the law not to.

Some car parks can be classed as public places e.g. supermarket car parks. Property includes street lamps, signs and bollards.

I have been involved in a road traffic collision and my insurance company wants the details of the other driver, how do I get them?

You must ask your insurance company to write to our collision records department via email to oss_accident_records@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Do the police prosecute failing to stop and report a collision in every case?

The police will aim to prosecute in most cases where there is sufficient evidence to secure a conviction. However, each case is judged on its own merits. If the accident is one where there is serious injury/damage, then the police will aim to prosecute in every case. If it is minor damage only then it is more likely (although not definitely) that it will be left to the insurance companies to sort out liability.

Failing to stop and failing to report a collision are offences and could lead to imprisonment and/or a fine.