Report crime at the click of a button

Online crime reporting has launched in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, giving residents the ability to report incidents online.

Online reporting went live on 3 April, and aims to increase the number of ways the public can make contact with the force.

It was introduced to give people the chance to report crimes to us at their convenience in a way they felt comfortable.

Inspector Aimee Ramm is one of the officers working behind the scenes to launch online reporting.

She said: "The aim is to increase the number of ways members of the public can contact us to report crimes.

"Many people do a lot of things online now – banking, shopping and booking holidays – which were traditionally done over the phone or in person, and we want to make that shift to offering an online service too.

"We want people to be able to contact us at their own convenience, in the comfort of their own home."

Reports will be managed by officers working in the Investigation Management Unit (IMU), and actioned as they come in.

Detective Inspector Mark Ringrose heads up the IMU. He said: "As a force – like many forces across the country – we are very phone centered with almost all crimes we deal with called in to the control room.

"With a digital shift to online, being able to report non-emergency crimes by sending an email is an appealing prospect for some members of the public."

Online reporting is to be used for non-emergency crimes – things that traditionally the 101 number would be used for.

Any emergency, or for the reporting of a crime in action, always dial 999.

PCC Lord Willy Bach welcomed the move, saying: "It's so important that we give people as many options as possible to contact us, to report crime or simply to ask a question. Online reporting enables people to provide details of a crime at a time and in a way that is convenient to them. I think many people will find this option useful.

"But, it is just one of a number of ways to contact the police. There are other ways to report a crime depending on circumstance and preference, including 101 and, of course, in an emergency it is a call to 999.

"This is a key part of my plan to ensure greater police visibility and easier accessibility for the public, reducing demand on resources internally while improving service delivery externally. It's a double win."

For reporting parking issues, noisy neighbours or issues with street lighting or traffic lights, other agencies are responsible and local councils should be contacted.

Concerns over fraud should be directed to <u>ActionFraud</u>, and anyone with information that may help officers build up a picture of intelligence should contact <u>Crimestoppers</u> – all of this can be done via the links on our website: https://leics.police.uk/reportcrime.

Anyone with information that might help officers build up intelligence, should contact Crimestoppers anonymously.