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Police Investigations &
Review Commissioner

9 September 2019

PIRC Investigation Findings

Serious Injury Following Police Contact
(Road Traffic Collision)
Kirkcaldy
8 March 2019

BACKGROUND

About 1647 hours on Friday 8 March 2019, on Oriel Road near to its junction with Strathallan Drive, Kirkcaldy, a marked Police Scotland Roads Policing car was involved in a collision with two other vehicles, driven by members of the public. As a result of the collision, an 87-year-old man, who was driving one of the cars, a Kia, sustained serious injuries. The police driver and the driver of the other car, an Audi, sustained minor injuries.

The police car was attending a report of a stolen vehicle being driven dangerously in the Falkirk area and had its emergency blue lights and sirens in operation. Earlier that day, the stolen vehicle was involved in an incident where a member of the public sustained a serious injury after being struck by the car.

As the police car drove towards the junction at Strathallan Drive, the Kia moved forward onto the road and into its path. There was insufficient time and distance for the police car to stop and it collided with the offside of the Kia, causing it to then collide with the Audi.

The elderly man was taken to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, for treatment.

A man was later reported by police to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to the collision but no action was taken.

REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 9 March 2019, Police Scotland referred the incident to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) in terms of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006, as amended, and the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (Investigations Procedure, Serious Incidents and Specified Weapons) Regulations 2013 for consideration of investigation.

PIRC INVESTIGATION

The PIRC decided to investigate the circumstances. During the course of the investigation, PIRC investigators visited the scene, obtained statements from significant civilian witnesses, medical professionals and interviewed relevant police officers. CCTV enquiries relating to the scene were conducted, Command and Control incident logs, Airwave radio recordings, training records, standard operating procedures and guidance documents were also examined.

PIRC FINDINGS

The investigation finds:

- The police car had its emergency lights and sirens activated at the time of the collision;
- The officer driving the car was a trained police advanced driver;
- The Kia car initially positioned in the bell mouth of the junction at Strathallan Drive, failed to see the police car approaching on Oriel Road and pulled out from the junction

into the path of the oncoming police car. The police driver was unable to take evasive action and the two vehicles collided, causing the Kia to subsequently collide with another oncoming car;

- The video recording equipment fitted to the police car was found to be faulty and did not record the collision;
- The police driver was not at fault for the collision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were made.