

Business crime is not a victimless crime. Restorative Justice could be a suitable and beneficial route to explore if you are a victim.

## **What is Restorative Justice?**

Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Restorative justice gives victims the chance to meet or communicate with their offender to explain the impact of the crime, empowering victims by giving them a voice. It also holds offenders to account for what they have done, helping them take responsibility and make amends.

## **What does it look like?**

Restorative justice often involves a conference, where a victim meets the offender face to face. You will be supported by a trained facilitator throughout the process and will not meet the offender alone. Sometimes, when a face to face meeting is not the best way forward, the victim and offender will communicate via letters, recorded interviews or video instead. Depending upon the circumstances someone may attend the meeting to represent you.

## **What are the benefits?**

Many victims, including victims of retail crimes, feel that the criminal justice system does not give them a chance to get involved. Restorative justice puts victims at the heart of the justice process – giving victims a chance to ask the offender any questions and get anything that they want to say about the impact of the crime off their chest. Government research demonstrates that 85% of victims who take part in restorative justice find the process helpful. For many victims meeting the person who has harmed them can be a huge step in moving forward in recovering from the crime. Restorative justice also helps to cut crime - research shows that it reduces reoffending by 14%.

## **What if I change my mind?**

The trained facilitator will ensure everyone's expectations are managed from start to finish. The process is completely voluntary for all involved, so either victim or offender can change their mind at any point of the process, but the facilitator will ensure that everyone involved is prepared as much as possible, should this happen.

## **How to access Restorative Justice**

Depending on what is available where you live, you may be able to access restorative justice by asking your victim liaison officer or witness care officer, if you have one. In England and Wales, you will have a local Police and Crime Commissioner, who may be able to help you get in touch with your nearest restorative justice service provider. [Find your local PCC contact.](#)

Alternatively, there are a number of services across England and Wales which can help victims access restorative justice. [Find an RJ provider in your area](#)

