

Title:	N8 - Risk Assessment
Summary:	Assessment of risk in the event of identification during the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI)
Relevant to:	UCPI
Author:	Adrian Baxter
Peer Reviewer:	Graham Walker
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Security level:	Official Sensitive

PURPOSE

This risk assessment has been prepared in relation to the Undercover Policing Inquiry, and concerns the officer known as N8.

The purpose of the document is to provide an objective assessment of the creation of or increase in risk to N8 and third parties if information is disclosed by the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) which directly or indirectly leads to the identification of N8 as a former undercover police officer (UCO). The report covers the situation in relation to both their pseudonym and real identity if details became known.

DATE OF DOCUMENT

08 - 05 - 2018

A risk assessment is a 'snap shot' in time. New information received, or a change in circumstances, could raise or lower the risk. It is therefore appreciated that assessments require regular monitoring, and may require updating.

AUTHOR

The author of this risk assessment is Adrian Baxter.

It has been peer reviewed by Graham Walker.

THE PROCESS ADOPTED

There are a number of methods used in the assessment of risk. The process adopted in the production of this report has been documented.

The terms have been documented.

The risk assessment includes the sources of the material as requested by the Chairman of the Inquiry (Risk Assessments – note to core participants - paragraph 11). A copy of the material is annexed to the assessment (paragraph 12). The risk assessors are aware of the contents of that direction, and note the Chairman's need for evidence and assessment of present risk, as well as future risk should the restriction order not be made (paragraph 17). They also note the comments re differential risk in terms of disclosure of the undercover identity (paragraph 18), and specifics around how the 'jigsaw' could be completed (paragraph 19).

The reports are structured to include all of the areas covered by the Chairman in his note dated 20th Oct 2016, specifically in paragraphs 29 and 30.

LIMITATIONS ON THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND GENERAL COMMENTS

There are a number of documented limitations placed on the process, either due to time constraints, or in compliance with directions given by the Inquiry. This includes the parameters set for researching subjects or organisations that may present an ongoing risk to the former undercover officer.

There are 57 footnotes in this risk assessment. The risk assessment does not contain a contents section.

Sections 1 - 2: These sections provide details of N8's real name and cover name.

(Update: N8 is a part of the Designated Lawyer Officer's group who has core participant status in the Inquiry).

N8 is not the subject of a current or previous investigation. There is no evidence of misconduct regarding N8.

The risk assessment summarises N8's MPS career including N8's deployment. N8 was arrested in his/her cover name but not prosecuted. A summary of N8's post-MPS career is discussed.

The risk assessment discusses a vulnerability with regard to N8's real name.

Section 3.1: This section details N8's life before joining the MPS. There is nothing from this period that affects the current risk assessment.

Sections 3.2 - 3.4: The risk assessor sets out N8's police career history before joining the SDS.

N8 had heard of the SDS through friends who had become UCOs. N8 was approached by an SDS manager, who conducted an informal interview. There was no psychometric testing, no mentoring and no formal training provided. N8 started in the back office building a legend.

N8 cannot recall any guarantee of anonymity, but assumed that that was the case.

Section 4: This section details N8's cover identity, the group(s) N8 infiltrated and the names of former associates within the target group(s).

The SDS had informal weekly meetings during N8's deployment which N8 considered to be an opportunity to de-stress and to raise any issues. N8 did not consider that support and welfare provision was needed during N8's deployment.

There is no evidence of N8 being involved in an inappropriate relationship during the deployment.

N8 was arrested in N8's cover name but was not charged. N8 reported the arrest to his/her line manager.

There were prominent successes during N8's deployment. N8 was thanked for work undertaken during his/her deployment.

Section 5-6: This section details N8's post-deployment career in the police and elsewhere. There are some risk factors in relation to N8's police career (which included other sensitive role(s)) and N8's post police career which are discussed later in the risk assessment.

Section 7: N8 is not subject to any formal investigation, civil claim or other litigation connected with the deployment.

Section 8: N8's current personal situation is discussed including details of N8's family. The Inquiry is causing N8 deep concern and anxiety regarding the potential risks to N8's family and to N8.

Section 9: N8's current level of exposure is discussed including potential vulnerabilities for identifying N8.

Section 10: N8 met with the risk assessor in January 2018. N8 fact checked the risk assessment in February 2018.

Section 11: The risk assessor discusses the current terrorist threat level for the UK sourced from www.MI5.gov.uk/threat-levels and the current threat to N8.

Section 12: It is stated in the risk assessment that a number of computer systems have been researched, including PNC (convictions), PND (nationwide intelligence) and IIP (MPS intelligence). PNC, PND and IIP checks are conducted upon groups and individuals contained in Sections 13 and 14 of the risk assessment appropriate to the UCO.

Section 13: The risk assessor discusses the current risk of physical harm and interference to N8 from the group(s) N8 infiltrated. Some of N8's former associates are known for violence.

Section 14: The risk assessor considered eight individuals of particular concern to N8. The risk assessor determined that several pose specific risks in relation to violence and/or research skills.

Section 15: The risk assessor discusses N8's perception of the risk of physical harm and interference from the group(s) infiltrated and those individuals within the group(s) as well as from other sources. N8 is extremely concerned that should his/her true identity be officially confirmed, N8's family would face a clear risk of harassment and physical abuse. N8 articulates the risks to N8's family and to N8. N8 believes there would be major implications not only for N8's safety, but for his/her current employment.

N8 was quite clear that N8 would be identified in his/her cover name should the dates of N8's deployment and area of operation be disclosed.

Section 16: The risk assessor objectively assesses whether the media will be interested in N8, were N8's real or cover identity to be officially confirmed. The risk assessor is of the view that N8 would be of interest to the media based on five factors.

Section 17: Various possible measures are discussed to mitigate the risk to N8. The risk assessor felt that if N8 were invited to give evidence, use of a cipher would be an effective measure should the cover name and true identity not be disclosed. The risk assessor thought that screening should remain an option if N8 was to provide evidence in person and that voice modulation would assist in preventing recognition and should remain an option. Given the risks posed from the group(s) infiltrated and from other sources, the risk assessor considered that the safest method for N8 to give sensitive evidence would be to give that evidence in private.

Section 18: The risk assessor discusses current third party concerns and the risk of interference to third parties including N8's family in the event of official confirmation of N8's true identity. The risk assessor states that the threat to N8's family described by N8 in Section 15 above is valid.

19. CONCLUSIONS

The assessment scores the risk assessor has shown below are based on what increased risk the former UCO would be facing in the event of identification or disclosure during the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI). The risk assessor has assessed both objective and subjective factors in reaching his conclusions. The risk assessor understands that this risk assessment will form part of the Metropolitan Police Service decision making in relation to whether a restriction order is applied for or not.

19.1 Current risk

The risk of physical harm to N8 and N8's family is currently very low.

The risk of interference with N8 and N8's family is currently very low.

19.2 If existing exposure of the cover or real identity, what difference does official confirmation make

The risk assessors acknowledge that 'believing' is different from 'knowing'. Assessing how official confirmation of the identity of a UCO impacts upon risk is speculative. The argument is that official confirmation raises the risk as it will increase the efforts to establish the real identity of the officer, and additional time and resources will be put into those attempts. In essence, that would depend upon a number of factors, including the level of certainty with which the person is already exposed. If there is no real doubt that the person was a UCO then official confirmation of that person is unlikely to add to the attempts to identify them, as those attempts will have already occurred or be proceeding. However, if the exposure is largely speculative then official confirmation could add significantly to the attempts to discover their real identity.

The risk assessors are aware that the Chairman has recognised in his 'Minded to' note that being named in connection with the Inquiry may result in a "stimulation or revival of adverse interest".

The risk assessor comments on whether there is existing exposure of N8's real or cover name.

19.3 Objective assessment of N8's current exposure

The risk assessors do not assume that the material currently in the public domain represents the totality of the information available. For example, there is evidence that people 'build a picture' before naming a person as an ex-UCO. Therefore the risk assessors cannot reasonably know what other 'pieces of the jigsaw' are required before the full picture is revealed.

The risk assessor discusses three areas of risk with regards to N8's current exposure.

19.4 Objective assessment of the increase to the risk of physical harm to this officer if their real identity were to be officially confirmed

In terms of increase in the risk of physical harm to N8 should N8's real identity be confirmed as a result of this Inquiry, the risk assessor considers and assesses five key factors:

In the risk assessor's opinion the likelihood of the increase in risk of physical harm to N8 should N8's true identity be disclosed is **very high (5)** and likely to occur at some stage.

In assessing the impact, the risk assessor considered the age of N8, N8's physical and psychological wellbeing (S 8.10 1nd 8.11) and the impact it would have on N8's professional life

In the risk assessor's opinion, the impact would be **Serious (4)**. This presents a major impact

on the officer. In physical terms it would result in a significant injury.

The overall score in this category would therefore be **(20) Very high**

19.5 Objective assessment of the increase to the risk of interference with this officer and their family if their real identity were to be officially confirmed

In terms of increase in the risk of interference to N8 should N8's real identity be confirmed as a result of this Inquiry, the risk assessor considers and assesses the factors considered at sections 13, 16 and 19 (above) of the risk assessment.

Objectively the risk assessor assesses the probability in this category as **Very high (5)** - the perceived risk is assessed as very likely to occur at some stage.

In the risk assessor's opinion, the impact would be **Serious (4)**. This presents a major impact on the officer. In terms of N8's family and personal life, it would require major adjustments to their lifestyle, significantly adversely impacting on N8's private life.

The overall score in this category would therefore be **(20) Very high**

19.6 Objective assessment of the increase to the risk of physical harm to this officer if their cover identity were to be officially confirmed

The risk assessor considers that N8 could be easily identified. Were N8 to give evidence in his/her cover name, screening and voice modulation would mitigate the risk to harm to N8.

If these precautions are in place, then in the risk assessor's opinion the likelihood of the increase in risk of physical harm to N8 should N8's cover name be disclosed is **low (2)** and considered unlikely.

The impact remains the same as for S 19.4.

In the risk assessor's opinion, the impact would be **Serious (4)**. This presents a major impact on the officer. In physical terms it would result in a significant injury.

The overall score in this category would therefore be **Low (8)**

19.7 Objective assessment of the increase to the risk of interference with this officer and their family if their cover identity were to be officially confirmed

S16.1 provides the risk assessor's rationale as to why N8 would be of high interest to the media and interested parties.

S 19.4 provides rationale as to why an interest in N8 would be taken by those who would most likely resort to interference with N8 and N8's family if they could not extort violence. The group(s) which N8 infiltrated resort to violence and harassment.

Provided the same precautions are in place as detailed in S 19.6 above, the risk assessor would assess the probability in this category as **Low (2)** - the perceived risk is assessed as unlikely.

In the risk assessor's opinion, the impact would be **Serious (4)**. This presents a major impact on the officer. In terms of N8's family and personal life, it would require major readjustments to their lifestyle, significantly adversely impacting on their private life

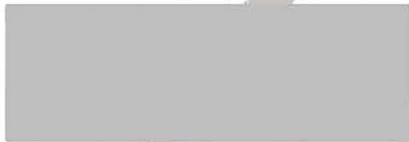
The overall score in this category would therefore be **Low (8)**

19.8 If the cover name were to be officially confirmed, what is the risk of additionally confirming the names of the groups infiltrated by this officer, the dates of the officer's deployment and the geographical location of their areas of operation, if any

- dates of deployment
- geographical area of operation
- groups infiltrated

If the dates of deployment, geographical area of operation and group infiltrated was confirmed, in the risk assessor's opinion, N8 would be remembered in N8's cover name, and would be exposed to the same risk as recorded in S.19.6 and S.19.7

Signature of author:



Date:

Signature of moderator:

Date:

10/5/18.

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References are displayed as follows:

Pitchford references contain numbers only – e.g. 0003051
Pitchford HC references are preceded by the letters HC in the following format – e.g. HC-0000818
Holmes references are always preceded by the letter D in the following format – e.g. D8471

Appendix 'A' - Index of documents that have been referred to and footnoted and can be made available

No.	Pitchford / Holmes	Description	Page no.
1	<i>Reference</i>	Adrian Baxter CV Conflict Statement	All
2	<i>Reference</i>	Graham Walker CV Conflict Statement -	All
3	<i>Reference</i>	Process adopted	All
4	<i>Reference</i>	Terms of Reference	All
5	<i>Reference</i>	Limitations	All
6	<i>Reference</i>	Research general documents and parameters	All

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Appendix 'B'- Index of documents – General

No	Pitchford / Holmes	Description	Page no.
1	<i>Reference</i>	DLS profile and chronology N8	All
2	<i>Reference</i>	Initial interview with family of N8 on 08/01/2017	All
3	<i>Reference</i>	Fact check interview with family of N8 on 07/02/2018	All
4	<i>Reference</i>	Herne pen picture of N8	All
5	<i>Reference</i>	Holmes risk assessment	All
6	<i>Reference</i>	database	Page 4
7	<i>Reference</i>	Letter re excellent intelligence	1 page
8	<i>Reference</i>	List of SDS retired officers	P2 No. 8
9	<i>Reference</i>	BBC report	All
10	<i>Reference</i>	Telegraph report	All

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Appendix 'C' - Index of documents

People researched

No	Pitchford / Holmes	Description	Page no.
1	Reference	Open source research on N8	All
2	Reference	open source, NBIS, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
3	Reference	Open source research, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	P1
4	Reference	open source research, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
5	Reference	open source research, NBIS on <i>former associate</i>	All
6	Reference	Open source research on <i>former associate</i>	All
7	Reference	open source, NBIS, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
8	Reference	open source, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
9	Reference	open source, NBIS, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
10	Reference	open source, NBIS, PNC/PND on <i>former associate</i>	All
11	Reference	Open source research on <i>N8's family</i>	All
12	Reference	NBIS and open source research on <i>former associate</i>	All

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Appendix 'D'- Index of documents

N8 re deployment

No	Pitchford / Holmes	Description	Page no.
1	<i>Reference</i>	Sensitive Intelligence	All
2	<i>Reference</i>	Sensitive Intelligence	All
3	<i>Reference</i>	Sensitive Intelligence	All
4	<i>Reference</i>	SDS documentation	
5	<i>Reference</i>	SDS documentation	
6	<i>Reference</i>	Letter regarding excellent intelligence	P2-3
7	<i>Reference</i>	Sensitive Intelligence	All