



Factsheet

Purpose and scope

The Undercover Policing Inquiry was set up in 2015 to get to the truth about undercover policing across England and Wales since 1968 and provide recommendations for the future.



UNDERCOVER POLICING UNITS

Special Demonstration Squad (SDS)

The SDS was a unit that existed within the Metropolitan Police Service between 1968 and 2008.

The SDS differs from the National Public Order Intelligence Unit in a number of significant respects, two of which are:

- Because of its relatively historic nature, many of the SDS's former officers are now retired or deceased, and they were deployed against groups that no longer exist; and
- SDS officers tended to return to ordinary duties after a single undercover deployment and were not "career undercover officers".

National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU)

Around 1986, the Special Branch network set up the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI). The ARNI developed into the NPOIU in or around 1999. Around 2010, the NPOIU merged with two other units to become the National Domestic Extremism Unit.

The NPOIU's role was to manage all intelligence considered to relate to domestic extremism. Their work included carrying out undercover policing operations.

Modules and tranches

The Inquiry's investigations are broken down into three modules, with Modules One and Two divided into six tranches.

Module One

Examination of the deployment of undercover officers in the past, their conduct, and the impact of their activities on themselves and others.

Module Two

Examination of the management and oversight of undercover officers.

Module Three

Examination of current undercover policing practices and of how undercover policing should be conducted in future.

Tranche 1

SDS

Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.

1968-1982

Tranche 2

SDS

Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.

1983-1992

Tranche 3

SDS

Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.

1993-2007

Tranche 4

NPOIU

Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.

Tranche 5

OTHER UNDERCOVER POLICING UNITS

Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.

Tranche 6

MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

Mid- and senior-rank officers, other agencies and government departments.



EVIDENCE AND HEARINGS

The Inquiry's investigations will proceed through tranches in chronological order.

Before the hearings for each tranche, the Inquiry will publish to those participating in the hearings the open witness statements of those giving evidence and documents related to that tranche.

Following each open hearing, the Inquiry will publish a daily transcript of the hearing, together with the documents referred to that day. Once the hearings for a particular tranche have finished, all open evidence considered as part of that tranche – even if it is not expressly referred to during the hearings – will be published.