

Module 2(a) Special Demonstration Squad Issues List

The establishment of the Special Demonstration Squad

1. Why was the Special Demonstration Squad created?
2. Who authorised its creation?
3. Who funded it?
4. How was the budget set?
5. How big was the budget?
6. What was the legal and regulatory framework within which undercover policing was conducted when it was established?
7. Who knew of its existence?
8. What, if any, provision was made for the review of its continued existence after its initial purpose or purposes were fulfilled?

The function of the Special Demonstration Squad

9. What was the function / were the functions of the Special Demonstration Squad?
10. How, if at all, did the function/s of the Special Demonstration change over time and for what reason/s?

Size, organisation and composition of the Special Demonstration Squad

11. How big was the Special Demonstration Squad at any one time and who served in it?

Management and supervisory structure and function

12. At the time of the creation of the Special Demonstration Squad, what provision was made for the management and supervision of the officers deployed undercover?
13. How, if at all, did that provision change over time?
14. What prompted those changes?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

15. Who managed, supervised and/or supported the deployment of undercover officers throughout the existence of the Special Demonstration Squad?
16. What role(s) were those individuals expected to play in relation to undercover officers?
17. What, if anything, was done to commend undercover officers or managers who deserved commendation?
18. What, if anything, was done to discipline undercover officers or managers who required disciplining?
19. If nothing was done in any particular case, why was it not done?

Selection and Recruitment

20. How were undercover police officers selected for the Special Demonstration Squad?
21. How were managers selected?
22. To what extent was former service as an undercover officer within the Special Demonstration Squad considered to be an advantage, or disadvantage, in the selection process for managers?
23. Was that view justified?
24. How, if at all, did the selection of officers for undercover work and managers in the Special Demonstration Squad change over time, and why?
25. What, if any, assessments (including psychiatric and psychological assessments) were undertaken in relation to potential recruits?
26. When were those assessments introduced?
27. Why were those assessments introduced?
28. Who conducted the assessments?
29. When in the course of the selection and recruitment process were the assessments carried out?
30. To what extent did the outcome of those assessments influence decisions as to whether or not to recruit individuals for undercover work?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

31. To what extent did the assessments fulfil the purpose for which they were introduced?
32. What involvement did managers have in meeting the families of prospective undercover officers to inform them about the role?
33. What were undercover officers and their families told about their prospective role?
34. Was the information given accurate and complete?
35. What, if any, undertakings were given to potential recruits about (a) anonymity; (b) their welfare and that of their family, if appropriate; and/or (c) their future police career?
36. Were risks to the families of undercover officers assessed?
37. What assurances, if any, were given to the families of undercover officers?
38. Were any assurances given to undercover officers and/or their families honoured?
39. What obligations, if any, of secrecy were imposed upon Special Demonstration Squad officers?
40. Were the selection and recruitment processes in place adequate or inadequate, and if so, in what respects?

Training and Guidance

41. What, if any, training did Special Demonstration Squad undercover officers receive, both before and after selection?
42. What, if any, training was given to managers?
43. What, if any, instruction and/or guidance about performance of undercover duties was given (a) by managers to undercover officers and (b) by others to managers?
44. What, if any, instruction and/or guidance about performance of management duties was given to managers within the Special Demonstration Squad, and by whom?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

45. What was the legal and regulatory framework in which the Special Demonstration Squad operated?
46. What policies and procedures were adopted and used by the Special Demonstration Squad, and to what extent were they consistent with that legal and regulatory framework?
47. Were Special Demonstration Squad officers made aware by their managers of the applicable legal and regulatory framework within which they conducted undercover operations?
48. Was the training, guidance and instruction provided to undercover officers adequate or inadequate, and if so, in what respects?
49. Was the training, guidance and instruction provided to the managers of undercover officers adequate or inadequate, and if so, in what respects?
50. What, if any mechanisms, were there for reviewing and updating training, guidance and instruction?

Legend building

51. What involvement did managers have in legend building activity by prospective undercover officers, including any involvement in authorising legend building activity?
52. When and why did the practice of using deceased children's identities begin?
53. Who devised and/or authorised the practice?
54. What, if any, thought was given by managers to the impact on the surviving family of a deceased child of the use for police purposes of their identity?
55. When and why did the practice cease?

Targeting and authorisation

56. Who was responsible for selecting the groups or individuals to be targeted?
57. Who authorised such targeting?
58. Which groups and individuals were targeted?
59. On what ground or grounds was each targeted group or individual selected?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

60. Were undercover officers tasked to gather particular information?
 - 60.1. If so, by whom and for what purpose(s)?
61. Was any aspect of targeting influenced by either conscious or subconscious racism?
62. Was any aspect of targeting influenced by either conscious or subconscious sexism?
63. What, if any, reasons were recorded for the targeting of each group and individual?
64. Did those reasons justify each deployment?
65. What was the true purpose of each deployment?
66. What conduct, if any, was each deployment intended to detect, disrupt or prevent?
67. In relation to each deployment, did it achieve its purpose?
68. What if any processes were in place to review the ongoing justification for deployments?

Role of supervisors/managers - general

69. What was the primary role(s) of each manager within the unit?
70. What was the extent and nature of the contact between deployed undercover officers and their supervisors/managers, during the period of deployment?
71. By what means and when did undercover officers report information to their managers?
72. What information did undercover officers report to their managers?
73. What record was kept of information reported by undercover officers to their supervisors/managers?
 - 73.1. How was that record created?
 - 73.2. What form did that record take?
 - 73.3. What was its primary purpose?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

74. What did supervisors/managers do with information reported by undercover officers?
75. In what circumstances and by what means was information gathered by undercover officers disseminated to others?
76. To whom and for what purpose(s) was it disseminated?
77. Did previous service as an undercover officer within the Special Demonstration Squad influence the role played by individual managers?

Reporting - justice campaigns

78. Was authorisation given for undercover officers to infiltrate and/or gather intelligence on social justice campaigns and/or campaigners?
 - 78.1. If so, by whom and for what purpose were they authorised to do so?
 - 78.2. Was that authorisation influenced by either conscious or subconscious racism?
79. If intelligence on social justice campaigns or campaigners was gathered without authorisation, which managers became aware of this, and how?
 - 79.1. What was their response?
80. To whom and by what means was such intelligence reported and disseminated?
81. What, if any, use was made of the information so reported and disseminated and by whom?
82. Was such activity justified?
83. What impact, if any, did such activity have on the justice campaigns infiltrated and/or reported upon?

Reporting - the Stephen Lawrence campaign and Duwayne Brooks OBE

84. Which groups and individuals relevant to the Stephen Lawrence campaign and Duwayne Brooks OBE were targeted and/or reported upon?
85. For what purpose were they targeted and/or reported upon?
86. Who decided upon and/or authorised this activity?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

87. Who carried it out?
88. What information was reported about any member of Stephen Lawrence's family, the Stephen Lawrence campaign, Duwayne Brooks OBE, and any of the legal representatives acting for any of them?
89. To whom was that information disseminated?
90. What use was made of it and by whom and for what purpose?
91. What, if any, role did any undercover officer play in relation to any police activity concerning Duwayne Brooks OBE?
92. Was any of the undercover policing in this subsection influenced by either conscious or subconscious racism?
93. Was the undercover policing in this subsection justified?
94. Was consideration given to informing the Macpherson Inquiry of Special Demonstration Squad activities in relation to the Stephen Lawrence campaign, the Movement for Justice or other campaigns that were, or were perceived to be linked with campaigns arising from the murder of Stephen Lawrence or the attack on Duwayne Brooks OBE and/or the Macpherson Inquiry? If so, by whom, and what, if anything, was done about it?

Reporting - elected politicians, political organisations and political activists

95. Were undercover officers authorised to target, infiltrate and/or report on elected politicians, political organisations and political activists?
 - 95.1. If so, who authorised them to do so?
 - 95.2. For what purpose?
96. If intelligence on elected politicians, political organisations and/or political activists was gathered without authorisation, which managers became aware of this, and how?
 - 96.1. What was their response?
97. What information was reported about elected politicians, political organisations and political activists?
98. By what means, when and to whom was that information reported?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

99. To whom was it disseminated and why?
100. What was done, when, and by whom with such information?
101. Was such targeting, infiltration and/or reporting justified?
102. What, if any, impact did such activities have on the political and democratic process?

Reporting - trade unions and trade union members

103. Were undercover officers authorised to target infiltrate and/or report on trade unions and/or trade union members?
 - 103.1. If so, who authorised them to do so?
 - 103.2. For what purpose?
104. If intelligence on trade unions and/or trade union members was gathered without authorisation, which managers became aware of this, and how?
 - 104.1. What was their response?
105. What information was reported about trade unions and/or trade union members?
106. By what means, when and to whom was that information reported?
107. To whom was it disseminated and why?
108. Was it disseminated to the Special Branch industrial intelligence section?
109. If so, for what purpose?
110. Was it further disseminated to private sector organisations?

Reporting - social and environmental activists

111. Were undercover officers authorised to target, infiltrate and/or report on social and environmental activists?
 - 111.1. If so, who authorised them to do so?
 - 111.2. For what purpose?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

112. If intelligence on social and environmental activists was gathered without authorisation, which managers became aware of this, and how?
 - 112.1. What was their response?
113. What information was reported about social and environmental activists?
114. To whom was it disseminated, how and why?
115. What use of the information thus disseminated was made and by whom?
116. Were such activities justified?
117. What impact, if any, did undercover policing have on social and environmental activism?

Management knowledge of and attitudes towards sexual relationships between undercover officers in their cover identities and those with whom they came into contact

118. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning sexual relationships between undercover officers in their undercover identities and those with whom they came into contact?
 - 118.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?
 - 118.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?
 - 118.3. Were the families of undercover officers informed of any such policy prior to recruitment and/or deployment?
119. Were such relationships authorised and/or encouraged by managers?
120. Who gave that authorisation and/or encouragement?
121. Were managers aware of sexual relationships between undercover officers in their cover identities and those upon whom they were reporting, or with whom they came into contact in their undercover identities?
 - 121.1. If so, what were their attitudes to those relationships?
 - 121.2. If not, should they have been?
122. Were such relationships tolerated and/or condoned by managers?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

123. If not, what, if anything, was done to ensure that they did not occur?
124. What, if any, thought was given to the impact on those with whom relationships were formed of the deception implicit in them?
125. What, if any, thought was given to the impact on those with whom such relationships occurred about the consequences of them for them?
126. What, if any, thought was given to the impact on the families of undercover officers who formed relationships with their targets/those upon whom they reported?
127. To what extent, if at all, was the occurrence of such relationships prompted by conscious or unconscious sexist attitudes on the part of undercover officers and their managers?

Management knowledge of and attitudes towards participation in, or encouragement of, crime by undercover officers

128. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning participation in, facilitation or encouragement of, crime by undercover officers?
 - 128.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?
 - 128.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?
129. Were undercover officers authorised to commit, facilitate or encourage others to commit criminal offences?
 - 129.1. If so, which criminal offences were they authorised to commit, facilitate or encourage others to commit, and why?
 - 129.2. Who gave that authorisation?
130. Did undercover officers commit, facilitate or encourage others to commit criminal offences?
131. Were managers aware of undercover officers committing, participating in, facilitating, or encouraging crime?
 - 131.1. If so, what was their response upon learning of such events?
 - 131.2. If not, should they have been?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

132. Was unauthorised participation in, facilitation and/or encouragement of crime tolerated by managers?
133. If not, what, if anything, was done to ensure that it did not occur?
134. In any given case, does the participation of an undercover officer in the commission of a criminal offence, or in facilitating or encouraging its commission, require referral to the panel considering miscarriages of justice?

Management knowledge of and attitudes towards undercover officers' involvement in criminal proceedings

135. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning an undercover officer being arrested, charged or summonsed in his or her cover identity?
 - 135.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?
 - 135.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?
136. Were undercover officers authorised to maintain their cover identities upon arrest, charge, or in response to a summons?
137. If so, who authorised this?
138. What happened when undercover officers were arrested and/or charged or summonsed?
139. Did undercover officers maintain their cover identities upon arrest, charge, or in response to a summons?
140. Were managers aware of this conduct?
 - 140.1. If so, what was their response?
 - 140.2. If not, should they have been aware?
141. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning an undercover officer appearing in court as a defendant or defence witness in his/her cover identity?
 - 141.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

- 141.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?
142. Were undercover officers authorised to maintain their cover identities if they appeared in court as a defendant or defence witness?
143. What happened when undercover officers appeared in court as a defendant or defence witness?
144. Were managers aware of this conduct?
- 144.1. If so, what was their response?
- 144.2. If not, should they have been?
145. Did undercover officers ever appear in court other than as a defendant or defence witness?
146. If so, in what circumstances did this occur?
147. Were managers aware of this conduct?
148. If so, what was their response?
149. What arrangements were made to ensure that prosecuting authorities and/or courts were informed about the status of an undercover officer appearing in court in any capacity in his/her undercover identity?
150. Were arresting/investigating police officers, prosecutors, the courts and/or other parties to the proceedings made aware when an undercover officer was (a) arrested, (b) charged, (c) responded to a summons, (d) appeared as a defendant, (e) appeared as a defence witness and/or (f) appeared in a criminal court in any other capacity in his/her cover identity, that the person concerned was an undercover officer?
- 150.1. If so, who made them aware and by what means?
- 150.2. If not, why not?
151. Did any other circumstance arise in which the participation of an undercover officer, in events which gave rise to a criminal case involving others, should have been communicated to the prosecuting authorities and/or court?
- 151.1. If so, was it?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

152. In any given case, does the participation of an undercover officer in proceedings before a court or in connection with proceedings before a court require referral to the panel considering miscarriages of justice?

Management knowledge of and attitudes towards undercover officers' involvement in civil proceedings

153. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning an undercover officer being involved in his or her cover identity in civil proceedings?

153.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?

153.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?

154. Were undercover officers authorised to maintain their cover identities if involved in civil proceedings?

154.1. If so, who authorised this?

155. Were undercover officers engaged in activities which became the subject of civil proceedings?

156. If so, were managers aware?

156.1. If so, what was their response?

156.2. If not, should they have been?

157. Should the participation of the undercover officers have been disclosed to the parties or the court?

158. If it wasn't disclosed, why not and with what consequence?

Management knowledge of and attitudes to infringement of legal professional privilege by undercover officers

159. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning an undercover officer coming into possession of legally privileged information?

159.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?

159.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

160. Were undercover officers authorised to obtain legally privileged information?

160.1. If so, who authorised this?

161. Did undercover officers acquire knowledge of information that was the subject of legal professional privilege?

162. If so, what was done with it by them and by those to whom they imparted it?

163. Were managers aware of undercover officers obtaining legally privileged information?

163.1. If so, what was their response?

Special Demonstration Squad Record Keeping

164. What, if any, instructions were given, as to what should and should not be recorded in Special Demonstration Squad intelligence reports?

165. What policies, if any, were in place in relation to the collection, storage and retention of information by the Special Demonstration Squad?

Whistleblowing

166. What, if any whistleblowing procedures were in place to facilitate the exposure of any wrongdoing within the Special Demonstration Squad?

167. Was whistleblowing discouraged?

Withdrawal from deployment

168. What, if any, policy, instruction, procedure or guidance existed concerning the withdrawal of undercover officers from their deployments?

168.1. How, when and by whom was that policy, instruction, procedure or guidance communicated to undercover officers?

168.2. Who authored any written policy, instruction, procedure or guidance?

169. How long were Special Demonstration Squad undercover deployments?

170. For what reason or reasons did deployments come to an end?

171. How did undercover officers withdraw from deployments?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

172. What involvement did managers have in the withdrawal of undercover officers from deployments?

Debriefing

173. Who debriefed undercover officers during or after their deployment and for what purpose(s)?
174. What did managers do with information received during debriefs?
175. What, if any, processes were in place to assess the outcome of deployments and inform future activity?

Management of post-deployment conduct

176. What, if any, steps were taken by managers and/or the Metropolitan Police Service to prevent the continued use of undercover legends and/or techniques after deployments had ended?
177. Did former undercover officers use their legends and/or associated material after deployments had ended?
178. If so, for what purpose?
179. Did managers and/or the Metropolitan Police Service know that they had done so?
180. If so, what, if anything, did they do about it?
181. Did former undercover officers and/or managers make use of information obtained whilst performing Special Demonstration Squad duties for private sector purposes?
182. If so, for what purposes and with what consequences?
183. Did managers and/or more senior officers know that they had done so?
184. If so, what, if anything, did they do about it?

The welfare of undercover officers and their families

185. What was the impact on the welfare of Special Demonstration Squad undercover officers and their families of their work?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

186. What management and supervision did undercover officers receive from managers, back office staff and expert professionals, such as psychiatrists and psychologists, whilst deployed?
187. Was the level of management and supervision of officers whilst deployed undercover adequate?
188. If not, in what way(s) was it inadequate?
189. What support and assistance did undercover officers and their families receive before, during and after deployment?
190. Was it adequate?
191. If not, in what way(s) was it inadequate?
192. What, if any, impact did undercover deployment have on the subsequent police careers of undercover officers?
193. To what extent were managers aware of that impact?
194. To what extent was it taken into account in relation to decisions about the withdrawal and post-deployment roles of undercover officers?
195. What, if any, impact did undercover deployment have on the health and welfare of undercover officers?
196. What, if anything, was done to alleviate the health and welfare consequences of deployment on former undercover officers?
197. What, if any, policies were in place to ensure the welfare of the families of undercover officers?
198. Were any such policies adequate?

The prevention and detection of crime

199. Did the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad help the prevention, detection and prosecution of crime, in particular serious crime?
200. Did the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad facilitate the prevention and control of public disorder?
201. If so, and in any event, did that consequence justify its activities?

Interaction between Special Demonstration Squad managers and those responsible for overseeing its operation

202. To what extent, by whom, and how were the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad overseen within the Metropolitan Police Service?
203. What was the extent of contact between managers within the Special Demonstration Squad, and those above them in the Special Branch chain of command?
204. To what extent did Special Demonstration Squad managers inform those higher in the chain of command about the day-to-day activities of undercover officers?
205. To what extent were the Special Demonstration Squad's procedures, targeting, operations, tactics, techniques and reporting methods directed, controlled, or in any other way influenced by the chain of command above the unit itself?
206. What praise or commendation did the Special Demonstration Squad and its members receive from the chain of command?
207. What criticism did the Special Demonstration and its members receive from the chain of command?
208. Was the Special Demonstration Squad visited or inspected by senior police officers?
209. If so, who visited, and how frequently did this occur?
210. On such visits, what was the extent of contact between senior officers and (a) undercover officers, (b) Special Demonstration Squad Managers?
211. Were the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad the subject of investigation and/or reporting by oversight bodies such as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and/or the Independent Police Complaints Commission or its predecessor and/or the Office of Surveillance Commissioners?

Dissemination of Intelligence

212. How, to whom and for what purpose/s did the Special Demonstration Squad disseminate the intelligence which it gathered?
213. What were the respective roles of the unit's managers (including administrators) in the dissemination of the Special Demonstration Squad's intelligence?

UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

214. What policies, if any, were in place in relation to the dissemination of intelligence by the Special Demonstration Squad?

Interaction with the Security Service

215. What contact did Special Demonstration Squad managers have with the Security Service and for what purpose/s?
216. Did the Special Demonstration Squad have a counter subversion role? If so, what was the role and how was it discharged?
217. Did the Special Demonstration Squad have any other role, formal or otherwise, connected, in any way, to the Security Service? If so, what was it and how was it discharged?
218. What influence, if any, did the Security Service have, either directly, or indirectly through the higher chain of command, on Special Demonstration Squad procedures, targeting, operations, tactics, techniques, and reporting methods?

Disbandment of the Special Demonstration Squad

219. How, and in what circumstances, did the Special Demonstration Squad come to be disbanded?

30 September 2019

Revised 21 December 2021