



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 specialist unit that existed within the Metropolitan Police Service between 1968 and 2008.

Because of its relatively historic nature, many former SDS officers are now retired or deceased, and some were deployed against groups that no longer exist.

In contrast with National Public Order Intelligence Unit officers (see below), 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)

In or around 1986, the Special Branch network set up the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI). The ARNI developed into the NPOIU in or around 1999. In or 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.

<p>Module One Examination of the deployment of undercover officers in the past, their conduct, and the impact of their activities on themselves and others.</p>	<p>Module Two Examination of the management and oversight of undercover officers.</p>	<p>Module Three Examination of current undercover policing practices and of how undercover policing should be conducted in future.</p>
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<p>Tranche 1 SDS Officers, managers and those affected by deployments. <i>1968-1982</i></p>	<p>Tranche 2 SDS Officers, managers and those affected by deployments. <i>1983-1992</i></p>	<p>Tranche 3 SDS Officers, managers and those affected by deployments. <i>1993-2007</i></p>
<p>Tranche 4 NPOIU Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.</p>	<p>Tranche 5 OTHER UNDERCOVER POLICING UNITS Officers, managers and those affected by deployments.</p>	<p>Tranche 6 MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT Mid- and senior-rank officers, other agencies and government departments.</p>



EVIDENCE AND HEARINGS

The Inquiry is conducting its investigations in broadly chronological order. It was originally intended that Tranche 6 would be investigated after the Tranche 5 investigations had concluded. However, owing to the age and health of some potential Tranche 6 witnesses, the Inquiry has decided to bring forward work on this tranche. Management and oversight issues that form Tranche 6 will now be investigated in the relevant tranche for the relevant period or policing unit.

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.

At the end of each hearing day, a draft transcript of the day will be published on the Inquiry website. Shortly before a witness is due to give their oral evidence, all materials associated with them – including their written witness statement – will be published, subject to any redactions.