

## IN THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

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**ANNEX A**  
**FOR OPENING STATEMENT FOR TRANCHE ONE PHASE**  
**THREE ('T1P3')**  
**ON BEHALF OF**  
**THE CO-OPERATING GROUP OF NPSCPS**

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The following material includes edited extracts from the Opening Statement prepared by the Designated Lawyers (with our emphasis) and a Diagram prepared by the Undercover Research group:

[https://www.ucpi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201028-Opening\\_Statement-DL\\_Clients.pdf](https://www.ucpi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201028-Opening_Statement-DL_Clients.pdf)

MPSB was organised into Squads managed by Squad Chiefs (fn7):

- (1) 'A' Squad – VIP Protection;
- (2) 'B' Squad - Irish Republican and Other Northern Ireland Terrorism;
- (3) 'C' Squad - Communists and Subversives / Public Order / Domestic Extremism;
- (4) 'D' Squad - Naturalisation Enquiries;
- (5) 'E' Squad - Foreign Terrorism and Extremism;
- (6) 'P' Squad - Ports;
- (7) 'S' Squad - Specialist Support (established July 1974)

'R' Squad (Research and Administration) was a small non-operational unit run by a Chief Superintendent which was responsible for, *inter alia*: compiling MPSB monthly reviews, quarterly surveys and annual reports; and research, long-term planning and (with MI5) national Special Branch training. 'R' Squad also held unregistered "588" files independently of the MPSB Registry.

(Fn7 The names and functions of these Squads changed over time, e.g. responsibility for fascism, anti-fascism and Trotskyism moved between 'B' and 'C' Squad before resting with the latter).

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## Public Order Branch

This unit within 'A' Department (Operations) of the MPS Uniform Branch was - like the SDS - established following the Grosvenor Square disorders of 17 March 1968. See the Commissioner's supplementary evidence to HASC (HASC 5th Report of 1979-80, *The Law Relating to Public Order* (HC 756-II, August 1980), p.75, para.30:

*'29. By 1968, however, the protests against the Vietnam War were reaching a crescendo and in March of that year police were given a taste of what was to come in ever-increasing quantities. A large march was planned from Trafalgar Square to Grosvenor Square, and you will all recall the scenes on our television screens which, in the context of those peaceful times, completely shocked the nation.*

*30. As a result of this demonstration a complete review of public order methods was ordered by the Commissioner. Its recommendations were twofold: firstly, that the traditional methods of policing demonstrations - i.e. the principles just enumerated - should not be abandoned in favour of the paramilitary policies of most other countries; and secondly, that a specialist branch at New Scotland Yard should be set up to coordinate all public order matters. **This branch is called A8 Branch** and it is in fact officers of A8 who have prepared, under my direction, this presentation for you today.*

*A8 - New Scotland Yard should be set up to coordinate all public order matters. This branch is called A8 Branch and it is in fact officers of A8 who have prepared, under my direction, this presentation for you today (our emphasis and editing).*

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The SDS annual report for 1971, dated 18 November 1971, [MPS0728971], para.10:

Another pleasing aspect of the Squad's operations has been the liaison with the **uniformed branch (A8)**, who have proved highly cognisant of the sensitive nature of material emanating from our officers.

# Relationship between A8 and Special Branch

*Red indicates normal information flow from SDS to A8*

