



G669

POLICY FOR

COVERT SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY

The primary purpose of all police surveillance activity is to secure evidence in order that offenders may be brought before the Courts. It can also be used for the gathering of intelligence on criminal activity and threats to public order or community safety.

Covert police surveillance is divided into three categories namely Property Interference, Intrusive Surveillance and Directed Surveillance. We will provide the Office of Surveillance statistical data in relation to these 3 areas.

The way in which we undertake covert surveillance operations will satisfy statutory law requirements, will comply with the National Codes of Practice, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. We will comply with the Code of Practice that instructs that a centrally retrievable record of all surveillance authorisations should be held by the force. We will issue a Force Unique Reference Number to each surveillance application and provide a monitoring and quality control function within the covert authority arena.

The Force Intelligence Bureau will be the centre of excellence for providing advice and guidance to officers in the force in respect surveillance policy and procedure issues.

Before authorising surveillance, authorising officers will take into account the proportionality of the intended police action and risk of intrusion into the privacy of persons other than the specified target of surveillance ('collateral intrusion'). The degree of invasion into a person's privacy must be necessary and commensurate with the seriousness of the suspected offences. Nottinghamshire Police will take adequate measures wherever practicable to avoid collateral intrusion or reduce it to a minimum.

Author: _____

Date: _____

Detective Inspector
Force Crime Directorate
Crime Policy

Date

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Steve Green
Chief Constable

This policy should be read in conjunction with the appropriate Procedures,
Guidance and Rules outlined below: -

PD 241 Covert Surveillance Activity under RIPA
National Codes of Practice