

Protective Marking	Not Protectively Marked
Publication Scheme	Yes
Title and version	Use of Overt Filming/Photography
Version	2
Summary	This policy is to provide direction to all MPS personnel dealing with the Use of Overt Filming.
Branch / OCU	TP Crime Policy
Date created	6 th April 2005
Review date	April 2007

The Use of Overt Filming/Photography

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all MPS personnel can make use of this valuable tool to prevent offences, reduce the fear of crime and reassure the public, gather evidence and intelligence, and identify offenders, whilst maintaining the support of the community.

The policy on the **Use of Overt** (open) **Filming/Photography** following its recent review **must** be read in conjunction with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with the same title listed under **Associated Documents and Policies** below. It is an amendment to existing policy set out in Special Notices 18/01 which has now been cancelled.

Application

This notice applies to police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Metropolitan Police Authority must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) policy and associated procedures.

However this policy applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles:

- Borough Commanders
- Superintendents responsible for authorising Overt Filming
- Borough Crime Managers
- Personnel responsible for risk assessing Mental Health operations
- Officers involved in policing disorder
- Officers involved in the investigation of crime
- Front line personnel, especially Overt Video units and proactive units targeting volume crime
- Safer Neighbourhood units
- Borough Intelligence Units
- Crime Justice Units (CJU)
- Photographic services
- Borough Trainers

N.B. This list is not exhaustive

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to all MPS personnel dealing with the Use of Overt Filming. It will enable the MPS to legitimately deploy this tactic to tackle crime and disorder.

Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of capturing overt filming or photography by MPS personnel.

This policy does NOT apply to:

- Covert (hidden) use of video or film under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- Immediate Capture of Evidence by Front Line Officers (ICEFLO)
- Traffic use of 'in car video systems' (PROVIDA)
- Fixed CCTV schemes

Policy Statement

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is committed to providing MPS personnel with a particularly useful tactic to combat crime and gather intelligence and evidence relating to street crime, anti-social behaviour and public order.

It may be used to record identifiable details of subjects suspected of being involved in crime or anti-social behaviour such as facial features, visible distinctive marks e.g., tattoos, jewellery, clothing and associates for the purposes of preventing and detecting crime and to assist in the investigation for all alleged offences.

This tactic may also be used to record officers' actions in the following circumstances. Maintaining public confidence and to justify police tactics. During incidents where police face substantial levels of violence, immigration arrests, detention of mentally ill persons and actions taken during high profile or critical incidents.

To demonstrate to the public that cameras are deployed overtly officers should clearly identify themselves as police officers or police staff and not hide the fact that they are filming. This can be achieved by:

- Use of uniformed officers
- Use of marked vehicles
- Displaying MPS identification if in plain clothes
- Using "Overt Video Unit" signs on vehicles

When a pre-planned deployment is authorised officers must be able to clearly state the reasons for the filming or photography and provide a copy of an explanatory leaflet. These contain details of the purpose of the filming and provide guidance on how members of the public may obtain further information and access to their images.

Benefits

Compliance with this policy will:

- Ensure public confidence and reassurance
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Assists in the prevention and detection of crime
- Enables monitoring of public order situations
- Provides opportunity to work in partnership with other agencies
- Enables officers to record identifiable features
- Provides evidence of criminal association
- Ensures Human Rights compliance
- Ensures Data Protection compliance and appropriate Protective Marking

Responsibilities

Ownership of Policy: Territorial Policing Crime Operations Strategic Committee.
Implementing Policy: Borough Commanders and Heads of Support OCUs.
Reviewing Policy: Territorial Policing Crime Policy Unit or equivalent.

Associated Documents and Policies

- Standard Operating Procedures for “Use of Overt Filming/Photography”
- Cancelled Special Notices 18/01
- [Notice 51/04 Item 11 Mental Disorder Policy](#)