



National Oversight Group Minutes

3rd Meeting – Thursday 5th February 2015, 11am at Novotel, Southwark.

Attendees:

Name	Role
Alex Marshall (Chair)	College of Policing
Ben Bowling	Dickson Poon School of Law
s23(1)	***s23(1)***
John Dilworth	CPS (phone)
Mick Creedon	National Lead Organised Crime (phone)
s40(2)(a)(b) and (3)(a)(i)	***s40(2)(a)(b) and (3)(a)(i)***
Joe McGuigan	HMRC
Katerina Hadjimatheou	University of Warwick
Jon Boutcher	Bedfordshire Police (phone)
David Tucker	College of Policing
Apologies:	
Rob Beckley	College of Policing
Dr Chris Nathan	Warwick Interdisciplinary Ethics Research Group
Dr Bethan Lofthouse	Centre for Criminology
Sophie Khan	PAC

1. Welcome & Introductions (Alex Marshall)

1.1. Alex Marshall welcomed all attendees and asked for initial introductions.

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies were received from Rob Beckley, Dr Chris Nathan, Dr Bethan Lofthouse, and Sophie Khan.

3. Previous minutes

3.1. The previous meeting's minutes were accepted and agreed.



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4. Actions

- 4.1. It was noted that all actions had been completed with any requiring further discussion already noted on the agenda for the meeting.
- 4.2. Ben Bowling presented a paper on research issues that he felt would form the basis of discussions between the College, the police service and academics.
- 4.3. The issues he raised were;
 - 4.3.1. Public attitudes to undercover policing;
 - 4.3.2. How the tactic is used and targeted;
 - 4.3.3. Issues that affect undercover officers.
- 4.4. The Chair agreed to discuss these with the College research team and then liaise with Ben.

5. RIPA presentation

- 5.1. A presentation was given by a practitioner on the application of RIPA.

6. Terms of reference

- 6.1. The terms of reference for the group had been revised in as part of the action arising at the previous meeting. The revised document had been circulated ahead of the meeting.
- 6.2. Concerns were noted about the draft terms of reference implying that the Oversight Group would have a role in scrutinising Policing operations despite this responsibility resting with the Office of Surveillance Commissioners.
- 6.3. A discussion took place about the group's role in encouraging openness and transparency in undercover policing.
- 6.4. It was suggested that the ToR be refined to make clear that the group's role is to act as overseer and critical friend for the structures within which undercover policing operates. **David Tucker to revise ToR in line with the discussion.**
- 6.5. It was agreed that a future meeting should focus on protecting identities and tactics in undercover policing, particularly the use of 'neither confirm nor deny' policy. **A future meeting to have 'neither confirm nor deny' on the agenda for discussion.**

7. Public profile of the group

- 7.1. There have been discussions about the public profile of the group at previous meetings and the Chair had written to members in advance of this



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Meeting to get views of members about publicising the group and naming members.

- 7.2. No responses were received to the letter.
- 7.3. The Chair agreed to release a press release regarding the group. Minutes would be made available without the details of those who do not want to be identified. **Chair to organise a press release.**

8. Action Plan

- 8.1. The Action Plan to respond to HMIC recommendations following their report into undercover policing had been circulated ahead of the meeting.
- 8.2. Jon Boucher agreed to keep the meeting updated of progress at regular intervals.

9. Any other business

- 9.1. The participation of the group was discussed. The Chair invited members to notify him of any people or groups who should be invited to become members. The Chair was clear that he wanted the group to bring effective challenge to the frameworks and structures within which undercover policing operate. The greater the number of perspectives, the more likely it is that this will happen.

10. Next meeting

- 10.1. Wednesday 29 April 2015, 11am – 1pm at Riverside House.



National Undercover Oversight Group – Action Log

Date / Item	Action	Owner	Status
22/10/14 2.8	Update the terms of reference to include the ability to challenge, enquire and ask questions about the ethical nature of the discipline.	David Tucker	Complete
22/10/14 3.2	The NUWG action plan would be shared with the group via correspondence once in draft.	Jon Boucher	Complete
22/10/14 3.27	To develop plans for providing psychological support for uc officers	David Tucker	Complete
22/10/14 4.3	To release the literature review completed as part of the NPIA 2012 review into training, selection and support for undercover policing.	***s40(2)(a)(b) and (3)(a)(i)***	Open
22/10/14 5.5	To produce a non-technical briefing on RIPA and present to the group at the next meeting.	Richard Martin	Complete
22/10/14 6.4	Alex Marshall to write to members to invite views about confidentiality of details of group members	Alex Marshall	Complete
22/10/14 7.2	The next agenda should include present products designed to date by each project theme to enable the group to challenge items in design.	***s40(2)(a)(b) and (3)(a)(i)***	Complete
5/2/15 6.4	Revise ToR and circulate	David Tucker	Open
5/2/15 6.5	Arrange 'neither confirm nor deny' presentation	David Tucker	Open
5/2/15 7.3	Publicity for the group	Chair	Open