
Overview

This standard covers conducting internet investigations interacting through the use of a covert identity.

This work is carried out by a Covert Internet Investigator (CII) who is an appropriately trained, competent and accredited law enforcement officer who has been covertly deployed on an authorised investigation, operating in a covert manner, and via the Internet, to seek to obtain information, intelligence or evidence against an individual, group or organisation.

SFJ CO8

Conduct covert internet investigations

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 establish the scope and requirements of the investigation
- P2 establish and maintain an internet based covert identity appropriate to the investigation, taking reasonable steps to minimise the risk of compromise to identity or equipment
- P3 identify and covertly acquire **equipment and services** appropriate to the investigation
- P4 identify the **subject** of the investigation
- P5 conduct an initial **risk assessment** and continually review the risk assessment throughout the course of deployment
- P6 establish the scope of authorisation under the appropriate legislation (e.g. RIPA), **use and conduct** of the covert internet investigation
- P7 identify the need for any additional support and take the appropriate action
- P8 test and confirm suitability of equipment and recording systems
- P9 use appropriate and ethical methods to gather information prior to the covert deployment
- P10 assist in preparing and developing strategies to deal with potential difficulties arising during deployment
- P11 establish initial contact with the **subject** of investigation in an appropriate manner
- P12 build and maintain a relationship with the **subject** appropriate to the investigation
- P13 brief others about the status of the investigation and pass on any information and intelligence that may be relevant
- P14 ensure that all material relevant to the investigation is retained and recorded in a durable and retrievable form
- P15 fully document all decisions and actions in accordance with current policy and legislation, and create evidential product if appropriate

SFJ CO8

Conduct covert internet investigations

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements
 - K1.1 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice, guidelines and applicable standards for conducting investigations, including covert investigations
 - K1.2 current, relevant legislation and other organisational requirements in relation to race, diversity and human rights
 - K1.3 the impact of your actions on victims and witnesses
- K2 ICT and the Internet
 - K2.1 how to use ICT equipment and internet based communication systems
 - K2.2 basic principles of how the Internet works
 - K2.3 internet based communication systems
 - K2.4 web site structures and protocols
 - K2.5 the global nature of the Internet
- K3 covert internet investigations
 - K3.1 how to obtain evidence, information and intelligence for an investigation
 - K3.2 the sources of relevant evidence, information and intelligence
 - K3.3 how to assess the available information and intelligence for the investigation
 - K3.4 how to assess the factors that may impact on the investigation
 - K3.5 the additional support which is available and may be required for the investigation
 - K3.6 the importance of briefing others about the status of the investigation and passing on information/intelligence to others
 - K3.7 electronic evidence capture and preservation techniques
 - K3.8 how to use appropriate language and terminology in a variety of contexts according to the investigation
 - K3.9 how to build and maintain relationships
 - K3.10 how to build and maintain a covert identity
 - K3.11 covert purchase and payment methods
- K4 documentation
 - K4.1 the types of documentation that must be completed
 - K4.2 the purpose of documenting information on investigations

SFJ CO8

Conduct covert internet investigations

Scope/range related to performance criteria

- 1 Equipment and services**
 - 1.1 hardware
 - 1.2 software
 - 1.3 internet connections
 - 1.4 recording systems
- 2 Subject**
 - 2.1 individual
 - 2.2 group
 - 2.3 service
 - 2.4 organisation
- 3 Risk assessment**
 - 3.1 police and community concerns
 - 3.2 physical risks
 - 3.3 psychological pressures
 - 3.4 legal issues and considerations
 - 3.5 economic considerations
 - 3.6 moral and ethical issues
- 4 Use and conduct**
 - 4.1 instructions to Covert Internet Investigators (CIIs)
 - 4.2 National Code of Conduct for CII
 - 4.3 legislation and case law
 - 4.4 human rights

SFJ CO8

Conduct covert internet investigations

Developed by	Skills for Justice
Version number	2
Date approved	January 2012
Indicative review date	December 2016
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Justice
Original URN	SFJ CO8
Relevant occupations	Public Services; Public Services and Other Associate Professionals
Suite	Countering Cybercrime
Key words	e-crime, cybercrime, conduct, covert, internet, investigation, investigations