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**ACPO (TAM)  
National Coordinator for Domestic  
Extremism**

**Management of Overt Images -  
Policy**

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**NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR DOMESTIC EXTREMISM  
(NCDE)**

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<b>Branch / OCU</b>	<b>Public Order Policing Section (NPOIU)</b>
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<b>Review Owner</b>	<b>Intelligence Manager NPOIU</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>NCDE Policy to outline agreed position for the taking, retention and management of overt images</b>

**Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all NCDE 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 Management of Overt Images 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.

NCDE and specifically the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) has a responsibility to gather, assess, analyse and disseminate intelligence and information relating to criminal activities where there is a substantial threat to public order, which arises from domestic and political extremism or protest activity.

The intelligence is supplied in order to identify and guide Policing activity relative to Political and Domestic Extremism. Officers from the NPOIU are at times asked to assist Police Forces with this in the operational arena. This is

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especially true for the officers of the Public Order Policing Section who are required to perform their duties in uniform. Intelligence gathered during these events will be entered into the NSBIS system.

Part of the intelligence comes in the form of digital images of individuals, which can be used by Police Services as a tactic to detect offences and disrupt the unlawful behaviour of persons who are likely to be engaged in domestic extremism activities (i.e. the prevention and detection of crime).

We are looking to identify those persons who are or have organised or are involved in the co-ordination of the event, action or incident including those who have partaken in criminal acts or who are part of a current investigation.

All images 'captured' by staff from the NPOIU will be to an evidential standard, these can be used for intelligence or evidential purposes.

Images submitted to the unit by other law enforcement agencies in either hard copy or by digital means (i.e. e-mail, CD-ROM etc) will only be used for evidential purposes where it can be shown that the ACPO guidelines on digital imaging have been adhered to.

The images must comply with the Data Protection and Human Rights Acts and in order to keep them there must be justification and an audit trail.\*

Where local procedures are in place for the capture of photographic product, POPS will work under their direction when in that Police Service area and will leave a copy of the images with that Police Service who will retain overall ownership of that intelligence/evidence.

We will seek authority from relevant Police Commanders to use photography and ask that this be captured in local policy logs or operation orders.

### Application

This policy applies to police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to NCDE must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

However, this policy applies in particular to all NCDE police officers and police staff engaged in the business of public order policing. The Head of the NCDE has responsibility and accountability for the implementation of appropriate operational security measures within their business area ensuring that public order policing standards are maintained in accordance with NCDE policy.

This policy becomes effective immediately.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to all NCDE personnel dealing with the use and management of overt images. It will enable NCDE to legitimately deploy this tactic to tackle crime and disorder associated to Domestic extremism.

This policy aims to:

- explain the justification for the taking and retention of digital images by NCDE personnel;
- ensure each member of staff is aware of their individual responsibilities and duties regarding the occasions where members of staff within NPOIU are required to process digital imagery;
- ensure that Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act considerations are addressed;
- ensure that all members of staff comply with Home Office standards for Digital Imagery;
- provide an audit trail in relation to the process of digital images;
- provide a frame work for retention and use of processed images;
- provide a method of reviewing the retention of digital imagery;
- ensure compliance with handling conditions;
- ensure that the reasons for the taking and retention of digital images is in line with the NCDE mission statement;
- explain what NCDE customers are entitled to expect from NCDE staff deployed to capture digital images.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all aspects of use and management of overt images by NCDE 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 image capture.

### **Policy statement**

NCDE is committed to providing NCDE personnel with a particularly useful tactic to combat crime and gather intelligence and evidence relating to Domestic Extremism.

It may be used to record identifiable details of subjects suspected of being involved in Domestic Extremism such as facial features, visible distinctive marks e.g., tattoos, jewellery, clothing and associates for the policing purpose

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of protecting life and property, preserving order, preventing the commission of offences, bringing offenders to justice and any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law.

It also provides a structure to ensure that the management of any product captured is dealt with in line with current guidance provided by law or legal precedent.

### Benefits

Compliance with this policy will:

- ensure public confidence and reassurance;
- assists in the prevention and detection of crime;
- enables monitoring of Domestic Extremism situations;
- provides evidence of criminal association ;
- ensures Human Rights compliance;
- ensures Data Protection compliance and appropriate Protective Marking;

### Responsibility

Ownership of Policy: National Co-ordinator for Domestic Extremism.

Implementing Policy: Head of units.

Reviewing Policy: NCDE Policy Unit or equivalent.

### Associated Documents and Policies

- Standard Operating Procedures for the Management of Overt Images
- Home Office Guidance on Digital Imaging Procedure, 2002
- Standard Review, Retention and Disposal Procedure for the National Special Branch Intelligence System (NSBIS)