

Surveillance

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982 16/4/2013

Summary

Introduction

Surveillance is the observation of people, vehicles, places or objects in order to obtain information about the activities and identities of individuals.

Surveillance can be carried out overtly or covertly, and it is either:

- **static**, meaning conducted from premises, vehicles or fixed points, or
- **mobile**, meaning it is conducted on foot, or from a vehicle, aircraft or helicopter.

Surveillance is planned, directed and secretive with the purpose of discovering the nature and extent of criminal activity to identify the people involved, and to gather evidence.

Purpose

This chapter applies to the use of dedicated surveillance squads. It contains information about surveillance squads, and about how to prepare for a surveillance operation.

Objectives of surveillance

The objectives of surveillance are to:

- apprehend a person in the commission of an offence
- obtain evidence of crimes
- prevent crimes being committed
- obtain intelligence on a person
- locate a person, address or property
- be aware of the whereabouts and activities of a person at any time during a given period
- identify a person's associates
- check the reliability of informers
- establish grounds for obtaining search warrants
- provide protection for victims, witnesses, informers, TSU and special duties constables.

Surveillance preparation

You must always prepare your surveillance thoroughly so that you are not detected.

Individuals involved in illegal activities are becoming increasingly aware that they may be observed or followed.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982 16/4/2013

Surveillance squads

Information withheld

Confidentiality of investigation techniques

The secrecy of surveillance procedures is critical to its effectiveness. Subject to the legal requirements for disclosure, surveillance methods must be protected from disclosure at all times.

Selection and appointment of surveillance officers

Information withheld

Tenure

General Instruction [S203](#) - Tenure applies.

Surveillance resources

Vehicles

Information withheld

Equipment

Information withheld

Premises

Information withheld

Financial responsibilities

Information withheld

Preparing for surveillance with a squad

Things to consider before seeking surveillance squad help

Information withheld

16 April 2013

Released under the Official Information Act 1982 16/4/2013