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## SI1316

# Restricted Patrolling and Out of Bounds Areas



## Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Declaring Restricted Patrolling Conditions.....	3
3. Declaring areas OOB (Pre-Planned).....	4
4. Declaring areas OOB (Spontaneous) .....	4
5. OOB areas .....	4
6. Recording details of Restricted Patrolling and OOB areas.....	5
7. Authority for the operational need to enter OOB .....	5
Granted: .....	5
Refused: .....	5
8. Placing an area back in bounds.....	5
Appendix A Contact Us .....	6

## 1. Introduction

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is committed to Keeping People Safe and providing the highest quality service to the community in Northern Ireland, often in the face of very difficult circumstances.

Some police activity may inevitably result in carefully considered restrictions on police patrolling and operations. All such activity will be measured and proportionate.

Areas within Northern Ireland can either have patrolling restrictions imposed on them (Restricted Patrolling), or be placed Out of Bounds (OOB), which will apply to police, police staff, police contractors and other agencies.

The District Commander decides who needs to know and how they should be informed.

The onus of checking if an area is subject to Restricted Patrolling conditions or, is OOB, remains firmly with the individual intending to visit that area.

## 2. Declaring Restricted Patrolling Conditions

The District Commander is responsible for all patrolling in their area of responsibility. They can impose such conditions as deemed necessary to counter; generic threats, local issues and other matters which require certain conditions to be imposed. For example the conditions may include avoidance of certain areas, specification of patrol equipment and types of vehicles to be used. Restricted Patrolling does not replace the need for declaring OOB and is a means for Districts to manage patrolling in the absence of a specific threat.

Restricted areas should only be entered for a specific policing purpose. They should not be routinely patrolled without cause. It should however be noted that there is a clear distinction between 'Restricted Patrolling' and 'OOB'.

These 'Restricted Patrolling' areas CAN and SHOULD be entered to attend calls, conduct follow up enquiries when the appropriate dynamic risk assessments have been carried out. In the first instance, any person wishing to enter a restricted patrolling area **MUST** consult with the duty Inspector or Contact Management Centre (CMC) Sergeant.

Restrictions to patrolling should remain under constant review and should be withdrawn as soon as practicable.

### **3. Declaring areas OOB (Pre-Planned)**

In order to place an area OOB all requests must be made to the District Commander or in their absence the senior officer, not below the rank of Inspector acting on their behalf.

District Command will give consideration to all the available information and in the first instance consider if Restricted Patrolling conditions satisfy the objective. However if deemed more appropriate will place the area OOB.

The originator must be available to respond to any queries during the full time period of the area being placed OOB.

### **4. Declaring areas OOB (Spontaneous)**

An immediate necessity to place an area OOB may arise due to imminent Article 2 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) issues.

### **5. OOB areas**

Areas placed OOB should, where possible, be kept as small as possible, for the smallest amount of time as possible, to enable routine local policing.

The District Commander will ensure that the requirement to have an area placed OOB is current and relevant.

OOB areas must be placed in bounds as soon as it is deemed safe and operationally feasible to do so.

It is recognized that on occasions there may be an operational necessity, or an Article 2 issue, whereby it is necessary to enter a OOB area.

#### **All Regions**

The CMC Supervisor for the relevant district/districts will assess all calls within OOBs that require police attendance, with a presumption that Police will attend.

Consideration must be given by District as to how best to inform others about an OOB area. This will include the most appropriate way of notification i.e. via media, if the public need informed. It is recommended that consultation with Corporate Communications Department occurs. This may be of benefit in wording any media

appeals or information concerning security alerts.

Officers and police staff are reminded of their duties and responsibilities under their respective Code of Ethics.

In all OOB's the Incident Manager at the Incident Co-ordination Centre must be informed as they carry out an overview of all incidents within the service area and may be deploying resources accordingly.

## **6. Recording details of Restricted Patrolling and OOB areas**

The District Commander will ensure a record of Restricted Patrolling and OOB areas is maintained and will ensure that these records are the subject of quarterly inspection.

## **7. Authority for the operational need to enter OOB**

Whether authority to enter an area designated as OOB is granted or denied a record must be made by the person making the request and the person granting, or denying.

### **Granted:**

- Date, time and by whom permission granted; and
- Risk assessment outlining clear rationale on decision to enter, to include all measures to mitigate risk.

### **Refused:**

- Date, time and by whom permission refused;
- Measures put in place to mitigate any issues;
- Date time incident not responded to brought to attention of Duty Officer; and
- Action(s) taken when area placed back into bounds.

## **8. Placing an area back in bounds**

This should be the same process as placing it OOB.

## Appendix A Contact Us

### Service Instruction Author

Chief Inspector P17790

### Branch Email

[zC4StaffOffice@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:zC4StaffOffice@psni.pnn.police.uk)