



Service Procedure

AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR)

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Department	Crime Operations
Branch	C4 Specialist Operations Branch
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Service Executive	N/A
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Abstract: This Service Procedure aims to inform officers of the capability ANPR has to offer in the investigation of serious and volume crime, motoring offences and the guidance for the use of ANPR.

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1. AIM OF SERVICE PROCEDURE

The aim of this Service Procedure is to outline the capability Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems (ANPR) have to offer in the investigation of serious and volume crime, and the procedures and guidance for the use of the systems.

2. INTRODUCTION

ANPR plays a significant role, where a vehicle link is possible, in tackling all types of criminality. ANPR is recognised as being a cost effective policing tool that improves the ability of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to enforce the law, prevent crime and detect offenders.

3. LEGAL BASIS

- (1) By virtue of Section 32 of the Police Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 police officers have a duty:
 - (a) To protect life and property;
 - (b) To preserve order;
 - (c) To prevent the commission of offences; and,
 - (d) When an offence has been committed, to take measures to bring the offenders to justice.
- (2) PSNI will use their ANPR Systems in a lawful and ethical manner in accordance with Schedules 2 and 3 of the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to the prevention and detection of:
 - (a) Terrorism;
 - (b) Serious Crime;
 - (c) Volume Crime; and
 - (d) Road Traffic Offences.
- (3) The capture and recording of the movements of a vehicle will, in many cases, involve an interference with the right to respect for private life and, this must be justifiable under Article 8(2) of the ECHR.
- (4) Section 32 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 provides a sufficient legal basis for the use of ANPR by PSNI. The use of ANPR in accordance with this Policy and other applicable regulation will satisfy the requirements of Article 8(2) as it is a proportionate policing response with adequate procedural safeguards as to the use of the information obtained.
- (5) The use of ANPR in accordance with this Policy aims to be compliant with the PSNI's obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and will be used in accordance with PSNI's Code of Ethics and Acceptable Use Policy.

4. CONSULTATION

- (1) Consultation has taken place with the following:
 - (a) **Internal**
 - (i) Police Senior Management;
 - (ii) Head of Intelligence, C3;
 - (iii) D/Chief Superintendent Service Improvement Department;
 - (iv) Superintendent Central Authorising Bureau;
 - (v) Data Protection Unit;
 - (vi) Disclosure Unit;

- (vii) Freedom of Information Unit;
- (viii) Head of ICS;
- (ix) Media and PR;
- (x) Portal Intelligence Unit;
- (xii) PSNI Human Rights Legal Adviser;
- (xiii) Roads Policing Development Unit.

(b) **External**

- (i) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC);
- (ii) Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC);
- (iii) Criminal Justice Inspectorate (CJI);
- (iv) Department of Regional Development – Roads Service;
- (v) Northern Ireland Office – Policing Division;
- (vi) An Garda Síochána.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS/EQUALITY/INTEGRITY/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- (1) This Service Procedure is deemed to be Human Rights compliant, and there are no United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) issues.
- (2) The Service Procedure has been screened for Section 75 considerations and meets the organisation's integrity standards.
- (3) Sections 1–6 are suitable for public disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, however, the accompanying Procedure and Guidance at section 7 is suitable for internal dissemination only.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- (1) C4 SOB will review this Service Procedure in 3 years from its date of publication or sooner if necessitated by legislative, regulatory or organisational requirements.
- (2) Interim reviews may also be prompted by feedback or challenge.
- (3) Any feedback or queries relating to this Service Procedure should be addressed to Head of Branch, C4 SOB.