

SP0217

Specialist Support to Investigations

SP Identification Number SP0217

Policy Ownership ACC Crime Operations

Initial Publication 30/03/2017

Review Cycle 5 years from issue date

Reviewed 17/01/2023

Classification **OFFICIAL**
[PUBLIC]

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to preventing harm, protecting people and detecting crime.

Specialist Operations Branch will provide professional and effective specialist support, in compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory responsibilities, to achieve this aim. Human Rights considerations will be central to all of our actions and decision making.

1. Policy Statement

Specialist assets (personnel and equipment) will be used to support policing operations and mitigate threat and risks to the public, police officers and police staff, this will include:

- Serious, Organised and Volume Crime;
- Matters affecting National Security;
- Firearms Operations; and
- Any other issues requiring specialist knowledge or support.

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is committed to the lawful and properly controlled use of specialist/technical solutions that benefit public safety outcomes. These benefits can include the acquisition of otherwise unobtainable evidence and the use of tactics or technical equipment rather than people to deliver efficiencies and reduce risk.

PSNI will ensure that staff are effectively trained, accredited and equipped to carry out their respective specialist roles.

PSNI will engage with partners to deliver enhanced national and local resilience in the areas of Specialist Support.

Compliance with relevant legislation and applicable code(s) will ensure that the use of Specialist Support to investigations is lawful, proportionate and fully justifiable. Whilst at all times seeking to protect methodology in accordance with legislation and policy.

2. Policy Links

The Corporate Policy Framework refers.

3. Contact

If you have any comment to make on the content of this Service Policy please contact C4StaffOffice@psni.police.uk