Corporate Policy | Service Instruction

SI1316

Restricted Patrolling and Out of Bounds Areas

SI Identification Number	SI1316
Policy Ownership	ACC Crime Operations
Initial Publication	29/12/2016
Review Cycle	2 Years
Reviewed	29/02/2024
Last Amended	N/A
Governing Service Policy	Counter Terrorism
Cancellation of	SP 9/2013 Declaration and recording Out of bounds (OOB) and restricted patrolling areas
Classification	**OFFICIAL [PUBLIC]**

we care
we listen
we act

Police Service
of Northern Ireland

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OFFICIAL [PUBLIC]

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

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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 OOD (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 an 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 entry 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

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- 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.

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Appendix A Contact Us

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