Covert Techniques: Legislation and Operational Capability

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	7224PS
Formal Module Title	Covert Techniques: Legislation and Operational Capability
Owning School	Justice Studies
Career	Postgraduate Taught
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 7
Grading Schema	50

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Justice Studies

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Online	30

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
APR-MTP	MTP	April	12 Weeks
JAN-MTP	MTP	January	12 Weeks
SEP-MTP	MTP	September	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	This module provides an overview of major covert techniques currently deployed by law enforcement agencies.The module will initially consider the governing legislation and procedures relating to the deployment of covert techniques within the United Kingdom and will critically assess the positions on the balance between privacy against safety and security. It will also explore the development of this legislation from common law and internal procedures to human rights compliant legislation.Students will assess the various covert methods for the capture of intelligence /and or evidence currently available and will examine these in the context of the relevant law, procedures and guidance that govern the use of covert techniques in both reactive and proactive investigations.The module will evaluate the published policy and legislation accompanying the use of covert techniques. It will explore the opportunities and risks of managing product generated from covert activities together with the authorisation processes and levels of governance, scrutiny and accountability. It will introduce the students to the competing tension between the rights to individual privacy and the states responsibility to provide its citizens with a safe and secure environment and where any interference with rights are kept to a level that is no more than necessary. It aims to enhance student's awareness of the breadth and scope of covert collection within criminal investigation both nationally and abroad. It will investigate and critically analyse the contribution covert technical collection makes to community safety.It encourages and enhances the student's critical thinking regarding the assessment, authority (legal and internal) and deployment of covert techniques. The module gives both a historical and contemporary overview of covert techniques use, reinforcing understanding through the exploration of specific case studies. The learning drawn from these case studies are vital to understanding the use of covert techniques by agencies authorised to utilise the powers.The module will examine the future of covert policing including the increasing use of such techniques by the unregulated private corporate sector and by nongovernment organisations. It will view and critically assess alternative collection methods including intelligence and evidence generated by artificial intelligence, biometrics and social media. The module will enable students to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of key methodological issues. The curriculum will allow students to generate a critical appreciation of the diverse range of uses of covert techniques including communications data, equipment interference, counter-surveillance techniques, surveillance almond with organisational leadership and structures associated with covert techniques.

After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Recognise and critically appraise how policy and practice associated with covert techniques interact with operational requirements in an effort to maximise investigative and intelligence success
MLO2	2	Critically compare and assess the ethical balance between individual privacy and other human rights provisions and the States duty to protect its citizens
MLO3	3	Identify, understand, explain, analyse and evaluate the covert techniques available to law enforcement in reactive and proactive investigations
MLO4	4	Identify and critically appraise techniques associated with the successful management of reactive and proactive operations

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	Historical and current legislative provision theoretical perspectives of IntelligencePolicy formation in Government in relation to covert techniques.The use of contemporary technical innovation to support reactive and proactive investigation.Organisational structures that support covert policing deployments.Judicial rulings, states cases, public inquiry and covert techniquesThe relationship between ethics, intrusive covert techniques and Human Rights.
Module Overview	
Additional Information	There are no professional body requirements at this stage, however developments associated with the College of Policing and other relevant government departments will be monitored and where appropriate, incorporated into module content.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Essay	2,500 word assignment 1	50	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3, MLO4
Essay	2,500 word assignment 2	50	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3, MLO4

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Richard Carr	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings