

# Improving management of Technical Surveillance Units

Technical Surveillance Units are subject to the same rules and regulations as all other departments dealing with covert operations. However, the challenges faced by TSUs can be quite different. It is important that policies and procedures accommodate for the TSU's specific requirements. **abmpegasus does not just support the management of covert operations, it includes functionality that communicates with and assists TSUs to deliver an integrated and efficient service.**

## Improving governance of TSUs

Functionality within abmpegasus allows managers to gain a better view of authorised applications for surveillance and the technical resources required. This helps to improve the oversight of the activity that the TSU have been tasked with.

## Security/Need-to-know

Whilst the TSU needs to know the location and subject of surveillance, they may not need to know all of the details of a surveillance application. Indeed it may well be in the covert unit's interests to limit the dissemination of the application's full details. To this effect, abmpegasus allows the police force to restrict the level of information that the TSU is permitted to view.

## Communication and Workflow

Communication between the covert unit and TSU is imperative for the smooth running of a covert operation. With abmpegasus, the TSU is automatically notified when the applications for surveillance are authorised. The TSU is immediately sent the information required to allow them to start planning the operation.

The TSU is able to view the original authorisation date of the application, which can be used to help with the review of progress and technical installations.

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### **Compliance for TSUs**

abmpegasus ensures that legislative requirements are adhered to by the TSU. For example, the system includes functionality to record when an officer has visited a surveillance site to be used as an observation post and ascertained the acceptance by the site owner(s) that their identity and address may be divulged if the surveillance is used as evidence in court (as required by the R v Johnson (1988) procedure).

Risk assessment is an important requirement of any covert activity. abmpegasus facilitates risk analysis for TSUs via the feasibility study form.

### **Capturing covert communications data**

During Surveillance operations, TSUs can update progress via abmpegasus. Any intelligence gathered from the operation can be inputted into abmpegasus and then dealt with accordingly (including the ability to sanitise intelligence for export into the Force intelligence database).

In summary, abmpegasus assists in the management of TSUs by improving communicative efficiency and supporting compliant procedures. Police forces adopting abmpegasus can expect a faster and more reliably executed response to surveillance applications.

