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<b>Cancellation of</b>	SP 9/2013 Declaration and recording Out of bounds (OOB) and restricted patrolling areas
<b>Classification</b>	<b>OFFICIAL [PUBLIC]</b>

## SI1316

# Out of Bounds and Restricted Patrolling Areas



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## 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 be placed Out of Bounds (OOB) or have patrolling restrictions imposed on them, 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 either OOB or has restrictions placed on it remains firmly with the individual intending to visit that area.

## 2. 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 if deemed prudent 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.

## 3. Declaring areas OOB (Spontaneous)

An immediate necessity to place an area OOB may arise due to imminent Article 2 ECHR issues.

## 4. 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.

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 a 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 a 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.

## **5. Recording OOB areas and Audits**

The District Commander will ensure a record of OOB areas is maintained.

### **Entry to OOB Granted**

Date, time and by whom permission granted;

### **Entry to OOB Refused**

Date, time and by whom permission refused.

## **6. 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 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 'Out of bounds' and 'Restricted Patrolling'.

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 patrolling area **MUST** consult with the duty Inspector or CMC Sergeant.

Restrictions to patrolling should remain under constant review and should be withdrawn as soon as practicable.

The onus to check for Restricted Patrolling Conditions rests with the individual intending to patrol in that area and can be done by contacting the CMC responsible for that area.

Restricted Patrolling Conditions does not replace the need for declaring OOB areas and is a means for Districts to manage patrolling in the absence of a specific threat.