

Q&A: SEROCU Covert Intelligence Officer role

1. Q: How much travelling do you have to do for the role?

A: Pre-COVID-19 we would go to a meeting or work from another location for part of, or a whole day, occasionally but since the impact of COVID-19 work has changed. We now commonly work a mix of home working and in office, in rotation to support social distancing. We rarely go to meetings or work from other locations since the impact of COVID-19 but this still might be required from time to time, depending on what is going on operationally and what national restrictions are in place. Covert intelligence officers more commonly work in the office than some other colleagues due to the IT access they need.

2. Q: Could this role be done flexible, agile or job share?

A: Yes, each situation would be unique so we would be interested to hear from any applicants who would want to work flexibly, have an agile arrangement or do a job share. We could then discuss how this could work in our workplace and see what could be possible. Not every situation could be accommodated e.g. if someone wants a job share but we can't find another person to do the other part of the job share. But we are up for trying to see how we can support and what is possible. This role is part of an on call rota and does work shifts.

3. Q: Do you have to have worked for the police before to be a covert intelligence officer?

A: It does help to have an understanding of policing or law enforcement but you do not need to have worked in policing before. What's more important is that you are willing to learn and want to do the job.

4. Q: What opportunities are there to progress?

A: Progression opportunities have been more challenging in the past for staff compared to officers. Covert intelligence officers can be both. But there are things you can do depending on what you are interested in or want to explore. There are also other roles for staff in intelligence like analysts, investigators and management positions. There are also opportunities to become an officer if that's what you might be interested in doing. There are also progression schemes that you can find out more about through Thames Valley Police and the College of Policing. SEROCU are committed to finding opportunities for development and progression for team members and will be finding opportunities to try new ways of working whenever possible.

5. Q: What is an average day like for a covert intelligence officer?

A: Whilst it sounds a bit cliché, no two days are really the same. There is a mixture of work, some which might need a fast response, and others which you can take on as a specialist project over a longer period of time.

Intelligence is always changing so a covert intelligence officer always has something new to learn. The role involves some work that you can lead on and get on with independently. There are also opportunities for team work where you play a role in an operation or a project and work with a wider team to achieve a goal. People who do this role love it and get opportunities to help investigations with unique tactics which can provide critical breakthroughs. It can be an incredibly satisfying role which people really get a buzz about.