

A day in the life of an intelligence support officer

What is a typical day in the life of an intelligence support officer like?

A typical day depends on what task you have been allocated. This might be processing, handling the intelligence inbox or addressing crimestoppers reports.

Processing intelligence reports involves: reviewing; assessing; researching and linking the relevant people, vehicles and locations; and forwarding on for a risk and threat assessment.

The intelligence inbox work requires me to respond to any emails that have been sent to the force's intelligence inbox, such as recalls to prison or releases on temporary license. My response depends on the nature of the email. It usually requires forwarding it on to the relevant divisions, but it can also involve researching an operation or organization before ensuring the email is sent on to the right person or inbox.

Force intelligence is responsible for receiving crimestoppers reports and inputting them onto our system. This entails the same roles as processing, as well as being responsible for informing the relevant division if something is high-risk, and inputting all the completed reports onto the crimestoppers register.

What are the typical working times for this role?

Many forces work a range of different shift patterns for this role. There is a requirement to work evening, late and night shifts, as well as some weekends.

Where would I be based?

For me, the role is purely office-based, as we don't have time to go out on location.

What training is available for this role?

When you take up a post within intelligence, either in policing or in one of our law enforcement Intelligence Professionalisation Programme (IPP) partner agencies, the emphasis is on developing your existing skills and abilities. This will help ensure you become a professional, fully competent intelligence support officer with transferable skills.

Training is varied according to individual and organisational needs. It may include classroom-based learning, e-learning, shadowing, on-the-job learning, practical experience, self-study and self-reflection.

You will have the opportunity to undertake the IPP, which will give you professional recognition of your competence.

All individuals are required to commit to continuing professional development to ensure that they remain up to date in their role.

What is the Intelligence Professionalisation Programme?

The IPP is a specialised development programme for those working specifically within intelligence, either in policing or in one of our law enforcement IPP partner agencies.

The IPP is a development programme that is between 12 and 18 months long. The IPP consists of a national learning curriculum and a set of minimum standards of competence (assessment criteria). Individuals are assessed against these criteria by an appointed IPP assessor. Once the individual's IPP assessor has agreed that the individual has met all of the relevant standards, they will be awarded a certificate of competence. This certificate is transferable to another IPP organisation and is valid for three years.

At present, you cannot undertake the IPP unless you are employed in an intelligence function, either in policing or in a partner IPP organisation.

However, this is not a barrier to employment. If you do not already hold the IPP certificate, you will be given the opportunity to complete the programme upon employment. The IPP is the nationally recognised certificate of competence across all of the IPP partner agencies. Completing the IPP is a mandatory requirement for some organisations.



What advice would you give for someone interested in a career in intelligence policing?

Do it! If you have an enquiring mind, you like to perform online research, you enjoy working alone or as a team, and you don't mind working shifts, it is a very rewarding role.

It can be stressful and requires a high level of concentration. There are different areas that you could work in, such as local intelligence units dealing with local crime, or regional or specialist units, which involve a higher level of vetting and deal with more serious and organised crime.

You can view information around the roles of intelligence on the College of Policing website, which will give you a broader overview.