

### Unit 3 Topic 1.2 Page 17

#### Activity: Media

#### Criticisms of police covert surveillance

##### Learning objective

At the end of this activity, you should be able to:

- Understand problems that may occur when the police carry out undercover operations.

Harriet Wistrich is a solicitor who has been working with women who have been in relationships with police officers. These officers concealed their real identity during the relationship as they were working undercover. The clip discusses some of the issues these women have faced in trying to get justice for having been deceived in these relationships.

A. Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 19 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHH3CXxErLw>

1. When did women who had sexual relations with undercover police start to come together?
2. Why did the women suspect the person they had been having a relationship with might be an undercover police officer (UCO)?
3. What did the women choose as the best way to bring a claim against the police? Why did they choose this method?
4. Note the causes of action that the group identified as applicable in their claim against the police.
5. Who was the claim brought against?
6. Note the articles of The Human Rights Act that the police had breached.
7. What are the problems with trying to bring a case under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)?
8. Why did the group decide not to pursue a RIPA case?
9. Why could the relationships with a UCO be seen as assault?
10. What do the two cases shown illustrate about the difficulty of defining whether a crime has been committed?
11. Note some of the reasons why the group saw the supervision of UCOs as negligent.
12. Note some of the reasons why the UCOs showed deceit.
13. What had to be proved to show misfeasance in public office?
14. What did the women have to undergo to be able to show damage?
15. What barriers did the women face in bringing claims against UCOs?
16. What is the impact of the 'neither confirm or deny' policy on trying to bring a case against UCO?
17. Note some of the comments made in the apology from the police.
18. Why was it important for the women to get the apology?
19. Why is it a problem for the women that they did not get disclosure from the police?

B. Overall, do you think UCOs should be allowed to form relationships when carrying out their work? Use information from the clip to justify your answer.