

OECD International Academy for Tax Crime Investigation

Investigative Techniques for the Effective Use of Banking Information





Undercover Operations

UNDERCOVER

The Undercover Unit is responsible for, and manages all, departmental undercover operations, providing advice to all areas of HMRC in relation to the potential opportunities for undercover deployments. It acts as a single point of contact with other agencies who support HMRC in such activity and can reciprocate support to those agencies in respect of their own undercover activities.





















<u>Undercover Operatives</u>

UCOs are members of a law enforcement agency who are selected, vetted, trained and accredited to gather intelligence and evidence.

There are three categories of UCO:

- 1. Undercover foundation operatives (UCFs)
- 2. Undercover advanced operatives (UCAs)
- 3. Undercover On- line only (UCOLOs)

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000

- A person who establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with another person for the covert purpose of facilitating anything that:
- covertly uses such a relationship to obtain information or to provide access to any information to another person; or
- covertly discloses information obtained by the use of such a relationship or as a consequence of the existence of such a relationship

An Authorisation is NECESSARY

- In the interests of national security;
- For the purpose of preventing & detecting crime.
- In the interests of the economic well-being of the UK;
- In the interests of public safety;
- For the purpose of protecting public health
- For the purpose of assessing or collecting any tax, duty or levy or other imposition, contribution or charge payable to a government department; or
- For any other purpose prescribed in an order made by the Secretary of State.



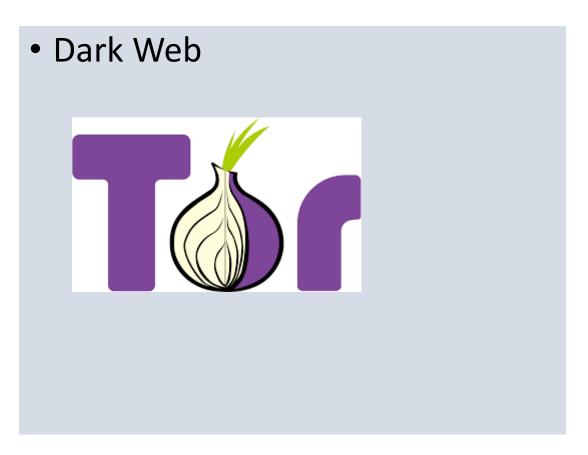
ONLINE DEPLOYMENTS

- An investigation into individuals targeting HMRC and its customers
- Identify as yet unidentified persons or personas on the internet who are looking to buy and/or sell HMRC/Government Gateway login credentials
- Identify the current price for HMRC credentials and how payments are made
 - Identify other UK identity data being traded that could be used in furtherance of fraud against HMRC
 - Identify real life identities of individuals involved in the criminality

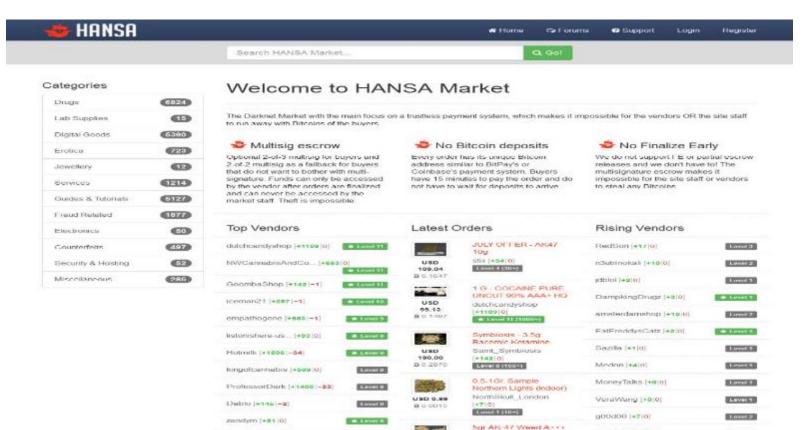
Undercover activity was undertaken in the 'Dark web' by trained UCOL's

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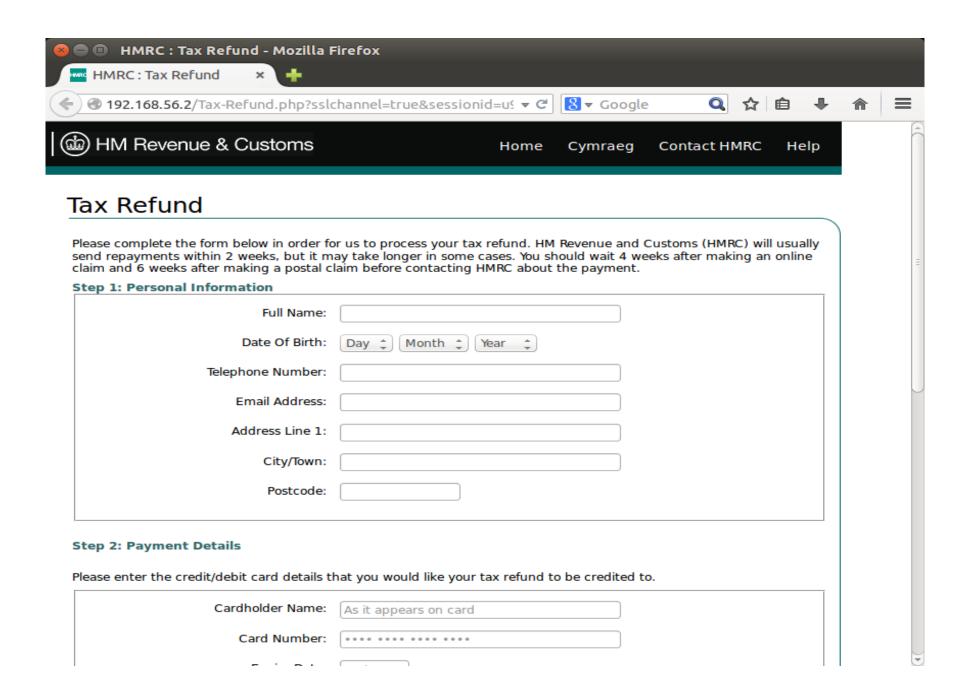
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Crypto-currency

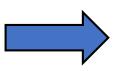


UCOs operate numerous cryptocurrency accounts











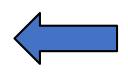




Cover Officer











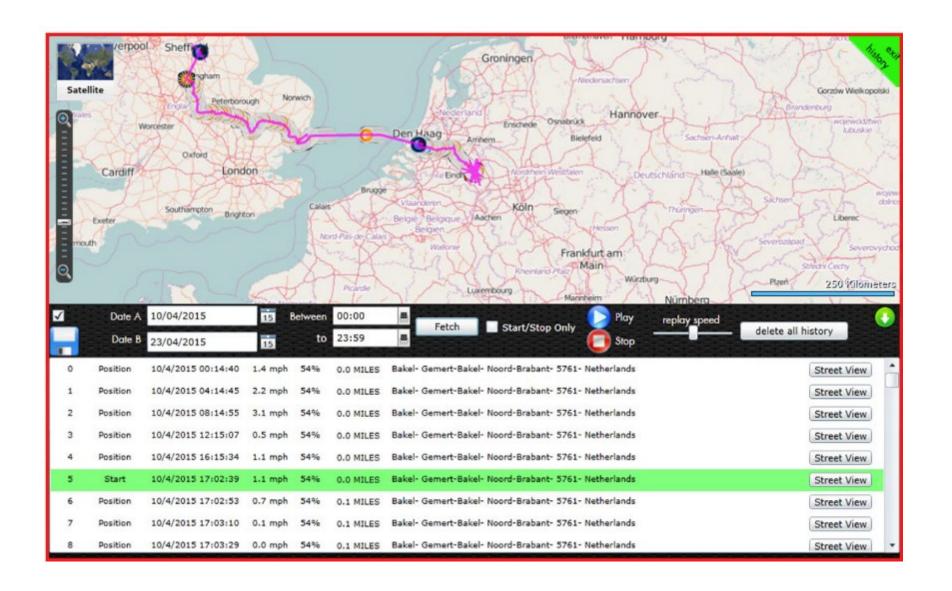
Online UC

Investigation into large scale cigarette smuggling.

The OCG were placing tracking devices within loads during the importation process in order to monitor movement.

Similar devices covertly purchased by HMRC for feasibility study and analysis.

Property Interference Authority obtained to access OCG online accounts.



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PHYSICAL DEPLOYMENTS

- Opportunity infiltrations usually used where the targets are actively seeking certain services we can provide.
- Proactively targeted infiltrations in the main focussed on the infiltration of certain groups/individuals.
 - HUMINT/CHIS infiltrations normally these are deployments from initial introductions by CHIS sources into criminal groups.
 - Covert acquisition of premises/vehicles to use as a platform for further DS&I technical opportunities.

Legend Businesses

- Fruit and veg importer and distributor
- Accountancy and Taxation services
- Property Management
- Freight and Customs clearance agent
- Clothing Importer and distributor
- Vehicle trader
- Various trading platforms



COUNTER AVOIDANCE

Support to Counter Avoidance Directorate in attempting to establish if webinar and/or seminar events hosted by various organisations were promoting tax avoidance schemes which should be disclosed under Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes (DOTAS) legislation.

Tax under consideration due to UC activity in excess of £300 Million.





Warehouse theatre



Warehouse theatre



