

Regulation on the National Security Unit of the National Commissioner of Police (RLS)

Art. 1

General provisions

The National Commissioner of Police handles matters that, by their nature or due to circumstances, require centralisation or co-ordination of police forces at the national level. The National Commissioner of Police operates a criminal investigation unit and a security unit, which investigates treason and violations of the state's constitution and its highest authorities, and assesses the risk of terrorism and organised crime. The name of the department is the National Security Unit.

The area of operation of the RLS National Security Unit covers the entire country.

Art. 2

Definitions

In the work of the National Commissioner of Police under this Regulation, and that of other parties as applicable, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. *Hazard assessment* involves systematically identifying the specific danger that exists. The purpose is to assess the magnitude and likelihood of potential events and the risk that specific areas or locations will be exposed to a particular hazard.
- b. *Risk assessment* involves defining the extent of the risk of human death or injury and assessing the impact on property, business and industry and other aspects of life in Iceland.
- c. *Threat assessment* involves assessing the risk level of man-made threats in individual undertakings, such as official visits, embassies, and government agencies. In the field of aviation security, hazard assessments are conducted to assess threats to airports, aircraft and air operations in general. In the field of maritime security, risk assessments are carried out due to threats to port facilities, ships and navigation.
- d. The *threat level* determines the extent of police preparedness based on the threat assessment and is based on the risk assessment that is available because there is a perceived increased risk of man-made hazards.
- e. *Strategic analysis* concerns the threat of terrorism and organised crime over the long term and involves conducting a risk assessment on a broad basis, taking into account developments in Iceland and abroad and indicating potential future developments.
- f. *Operational analysis* concerns research and analysis work related to police operations.

Art. 3

Organisation

The National Commissioner of Police directs and coordinates the work of the police in the field of security matters, with the aim of preventing conduct that may be in violation of Chapters X and XI of the General Penal Code, Act No. 19/1940, and preventing terrorism and organised crime.

The National Commissioner of Police may entrust Chiefs of Police with specific tasks and with providing personnel to support the operations of the National Security Unit. The Chief of the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police provides personnel to support operations under the control of the National Security Unit, such as shadowing, phone tapping operations, etc. The office of the Chief of Police in Suðurnes is responsible for analysing travel to and from Iceland.

The National Commissioner of Police sets procedures for the implementation of individual tasks by Chiefs of Police.

Art. 4

Role and tasks

The role of the National Security Unit is to carry out tasks in the field of security, which include case investigations, operational analysis and risk assessments, and strategic analyses.

The specific tasks of the National Security Unit are as follows:

- a. gathering information, processing, analysing and exchanging information for the purpose of preventing or reducing the likelihood of offences;
- b. assessing the danger and risk of organised crime, terrorism and, where appropriate, other offences falling under Chapters X and XI of the General Penal Code, Act No. 19/1940, as subsequently amended;
- c. issuing regular threat assessments for organised crime and terrorism;
- d. conducting risk analyses in connection with individuals and gathering information on the protection and security for the highest state authorities;
- e. providing advice on preparedness that is of significance to the interests of the state and activities of national importance;
- f. participating in the preparation of actions to support the police in Iceland and gathering information on matters related to national security;
- g. providing assistance to police forces for border control;
- h. conducting security assessments of individuals and issuing security clearance certificates for police activities and for participation in international co-operation on behalf of the government;
- i. monitoring compliance with rules for handling sensitive data;
- j. participating in emergency planning with the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management;
- k. taking part in operational management of special operations of the National Commissioner of Police.
- l. The National Commissioner of Police sets general threat levels and special threat levels for aviation and maritime security in accordance with international conventions to which Iceland is a party.

Art. 5

National information and analysis centre

In order to ensure communication and information sharing between state security agencies, the National Security Unit shall provide facilities for permanent contact persons of the Icelandic Coast Guard and the Chiefs of Police of the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police and the Suðurnes region, each of whom shall have a permanent employee working in the NSU as the contact of their agency with the unit. The National Commissioner of Police can also request the similar involvement of other agencies, such as the Director of Customs or the Directorate of Immigration.

In their work at the National Security Unit contact persons are subject to the authority of NSU leaders and the National Commissioner of Police's rules on the handling of confidential information.

A special encrypted security connection shall be established between the National Security Unit, the Chief of Police in Suðurnes and the Icelandic Coast Guard, with connections to other NATO countries.

Art. 6

International co-operation

The National Security Unit is responsible for international co-operation with security agencies in other countries. Information provided by foreign security agencies shall not be shared with others without the permission of the relevant security agency.

Art. 7

Procedures

The National Commissioner of Police sets procedures for the activities of and handling of information by the National Security Unit. These procedures shall, among other things, provide for its co-operation with the Coast Guard, police chiefs, the Director of Customs and the Directorate of Immigration.

The National Commissioner of Police shall establish procedures for a central database as referred to in the first paragraph of Art. 6 of this Regulation.

Art. 8

Entry into force

This Regulation, which is issued pursuant to the authorisation in the third paragraph of Art. 5 of the Police Act, No. 90 of 13 June 1996, cf. the provisions of subparagraph b of the second paragraph of Art. 5 of the same Act, as amended by Art. 1 of Act No. 46 of June 13, 2006, shall enter into force immediately.

Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, 8 May 2007

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Should there be any discrepancy between the text that appears here and that published in Section B of *Stjórnartíðindi*, the latter shall take precedence.