

Date: 06/04/2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-024

RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated 08/03/2021:

"Thank you for your email and attachment. Within the attached document referenced at the bottom of Page 30 (Page 17 of the PDF) is noted:

"Mutual Aid Co-Ordinating Centre" and the Supplement to the A.C.P.O Guide to Public Order Policing - October 1991.

As this document is a supplementary section would you please provide a copy of this October 1991 document."

When a request for information is made under FoIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

It is important to note that a freedom of information request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed are considered suitable for open publication, that is, once access to information is granted to one person under the legislation, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual should a request be received. In light of this, our responses and disclosures are published on our external website at a later date. This should be borne in mind where a request is made for personal data of named individuals.

Decision

After conducting careful searches for any information relevant to your request I can confirm, under Section 1(1), that there is information held. The Supplement to the A.C.P.O Guide to Public Order Policing – October 1991 can be found in disclosure document 1, attached to the email, however some information has been redacted under Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement. Please see our reasoning for applying this exemption below.

I trust this letter answers your questions. Your rights are provided in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Watson | Legal Researcher
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing

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Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Information may be exempt under section 31(1) if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice -

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The above exemption requires a consideration of the prejudice or harm that would, or would be likely, to result from disclosure. The public interest test must then be considered, which requires an analysis of the arguments on both sides as to whether the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by any harm that disclosure may cause.

The College accepts that releasing the A.C.P.O Guide to Public Order Policing – October 1991 Supplement would be of interest to the general public. We agree that to disclose this information would allow the public to see the nature of the work we do and the way in which we have supported policing. It would also help provide reassurance to the public that the College is fully transparent about the information they hold.

However, we also recognise that the effective conduct of the police service depends on certain tactical information not being released into the public domain. Due to the tactically sensitive nature of some sections of the guide we believe that release may pose a threat to the public or law enforcement. Disclosure could hinder the effective prevention and detection of crime as it has the potential to reveal specific tactics the police still use today. Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement capabilities is highly likely to have an adverse impact on public safety and a negative effect on law enforcement generally. This risk to public safety cannot be said to be in the public interest.

As stated above, the public interest test is a consideration of whether the public benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm of releasing that information, but it is not merely an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, I consider that the public interest test favours withholding specific sections of the document. It is believed that disclosure of the relevant content **would be likely to** prejudice effective law enforcement. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Consequently, for the reasons set out above, some content within the A.C.P.O Guide to Public Order Policing – October 1991 Supplement has been redacted in line with Section 31(1).

Appendix A

Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the College of Policing made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can request that the decision is reviewed internally.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

The Information Commissioner

If, after lodging an internal review request with the College of Policing you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Alternatively, write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113



**SUPPLEMENT
TO
THE ACPO GUIDE
TO
PUBLIC ORDER POLICING**

JANUARY 1993

**CONFIDENTIAL
For Police Eyes Only**

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MUTUAL AID CO-ORDINATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Mutual Aid Co-ordination Centre based at New Scotland Yard, is a temporary communications facility which can be activated, to assist in giving practical effect to arrangements under Section 14 of the Police Act 1964. The relevant Home Office Circulars should be read in conjunction with this Section.

2. ROLE OF THE M.A.C.C.

- 2.1 When the M.A.C.C. is in operation, the direction and control of police operations within a force area, including the control of officers provided under mutual aid, is the responsibility of the individual chief officer. Whilst the M.A.C.C. is responsible for co-ordinating requests by chief officers for mutual aid assistance, it is not empowered to take the initiative in moving personnel from one police area to another.

- 2.2 The terms of reference:-

- a) To arrange mutual aid when:
 - i) the national situation demands it;
 - ii) local mutual aid arrangements are inadequate or would create difficulties in deploying police resources on a national basis.
- b) To collate and disseminate information relating to the situation.
- c) To provide the Home Secretary with such information.

- 2.3 Once M.A.C.C. is fully activated IT IS VITAL that all requests and arrangements for aid are made through the Centre. Local mutual aid arrangements are superseded.

- 2.4 Non-Home Office Police Forces are outside the remit of the M.A.C.C., but consideration must be given to establishing liaison with such Forces. The point of reference for such liaison will be the M.A.C.C.

3. ACTIVATION OF M.A.C.C.

3.1 The decision to do so will be taken by the President of A.C.P.O. in consultation with colleagues. The Home Office will be notified.

3.2 Where a situation develops gradually, the M.A.C.C. will be activated in a monitoring role, i.e. National Information Centre.

3.3 In relation to spontaneous situations, it is unlikely that the M.A.C.C. could be activated in time to co-ordinate the initial mutual aid response. Where such a situation continues, then a decision on the necessity for national co-ordination would be made.

4. NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE

4.1 There may be other situations which do not demand large scale mutual aid, but which would benefit from the centralised collation and dissemination of information.

4.2 For this purpose a 'National Information Centre' may be activated in the same manner as the M.A.C.C.

5. RESPONSIBILITY AND STAFFING OF THE M.A.C.C.

5.1 The President of A.C.P.O. has overall responsibility for the Centre. The everyday running of it will be the responsibility of a Deputy Chief Constable.

5.2 Officers from provincial Forces and the Metropolitan Police will staff the Centre.

6.

6.1



7. INFORMATION AND SITUATION REPORTS

7.1 The Centre requires information from Forces to establish a broad picture of the operational situation, together with details of individual force commitments and the availability of mutual aid.

7.2 Each Force will provide A DAILY REPORT on the situation in its area and details of the number, capability, availability and commitment of manpower and other resources eg Cell Accommodation.

7.3 Information from these daily reports will be provided to the Home Secretary.

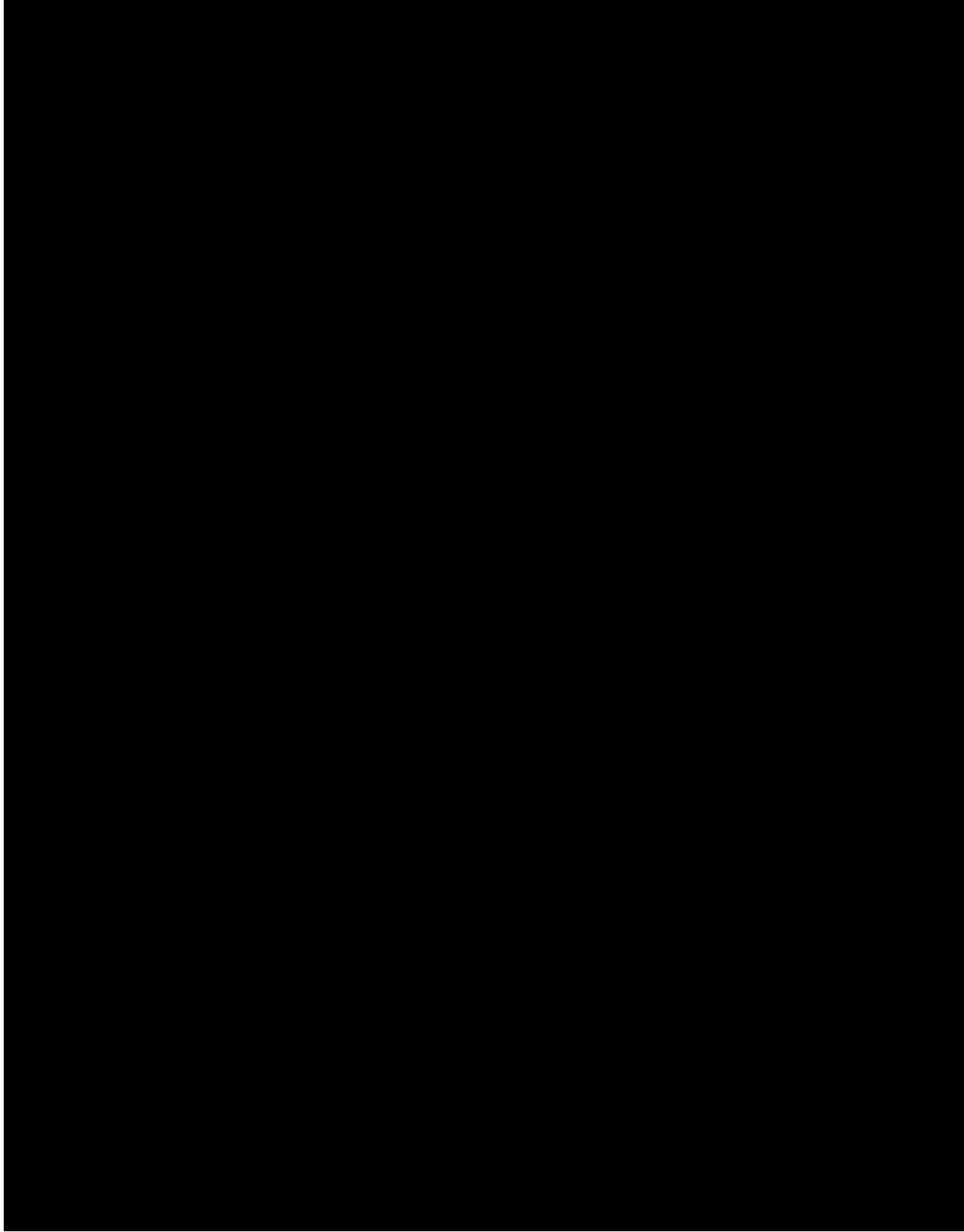
7.4 Whether the M.A.C.C. is fully activated or monitoring daily situation reports will be required from Forces by 1000 hours, this will include the deployment of the Force - (a) at that time, (b) that envisaged at 1800 hours.

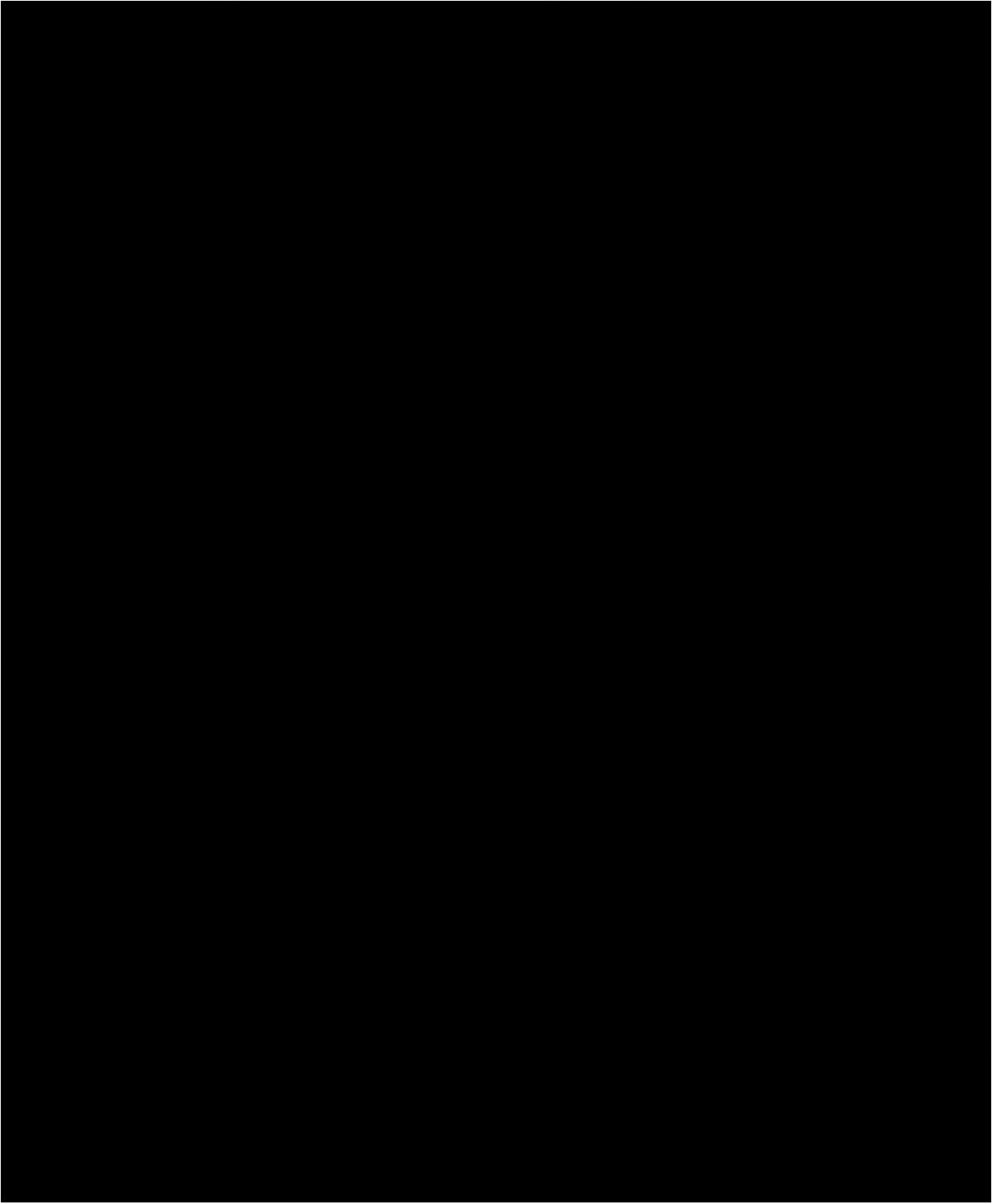
Further reports need only be submitted should the Force's own situation change significantly from that envisaged or if required to do so by the M.A.C.C.

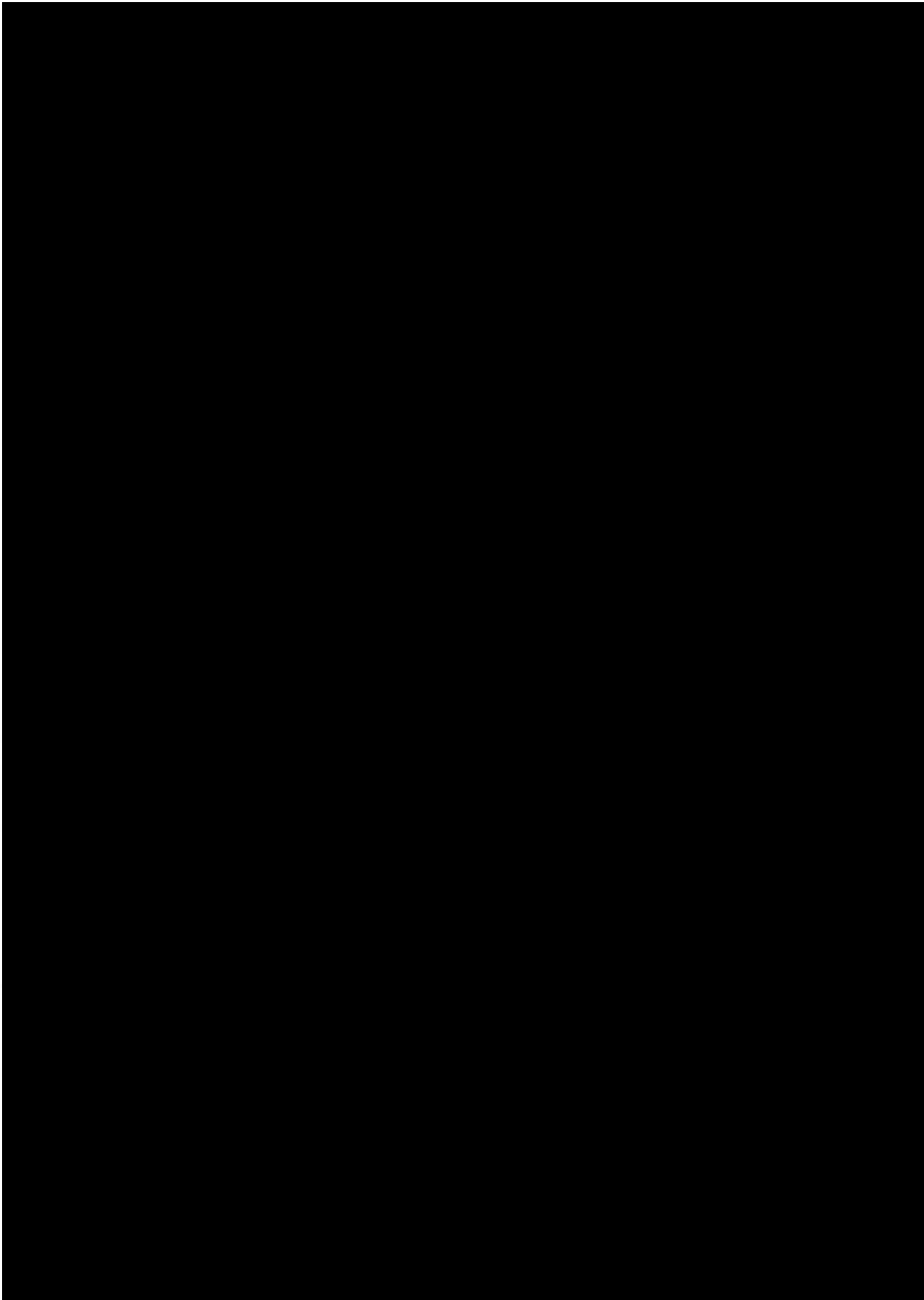
7.5 Situation reports will be in coded and tabulated form so as to minimise communications traffic and maintain a reasonable level of security.

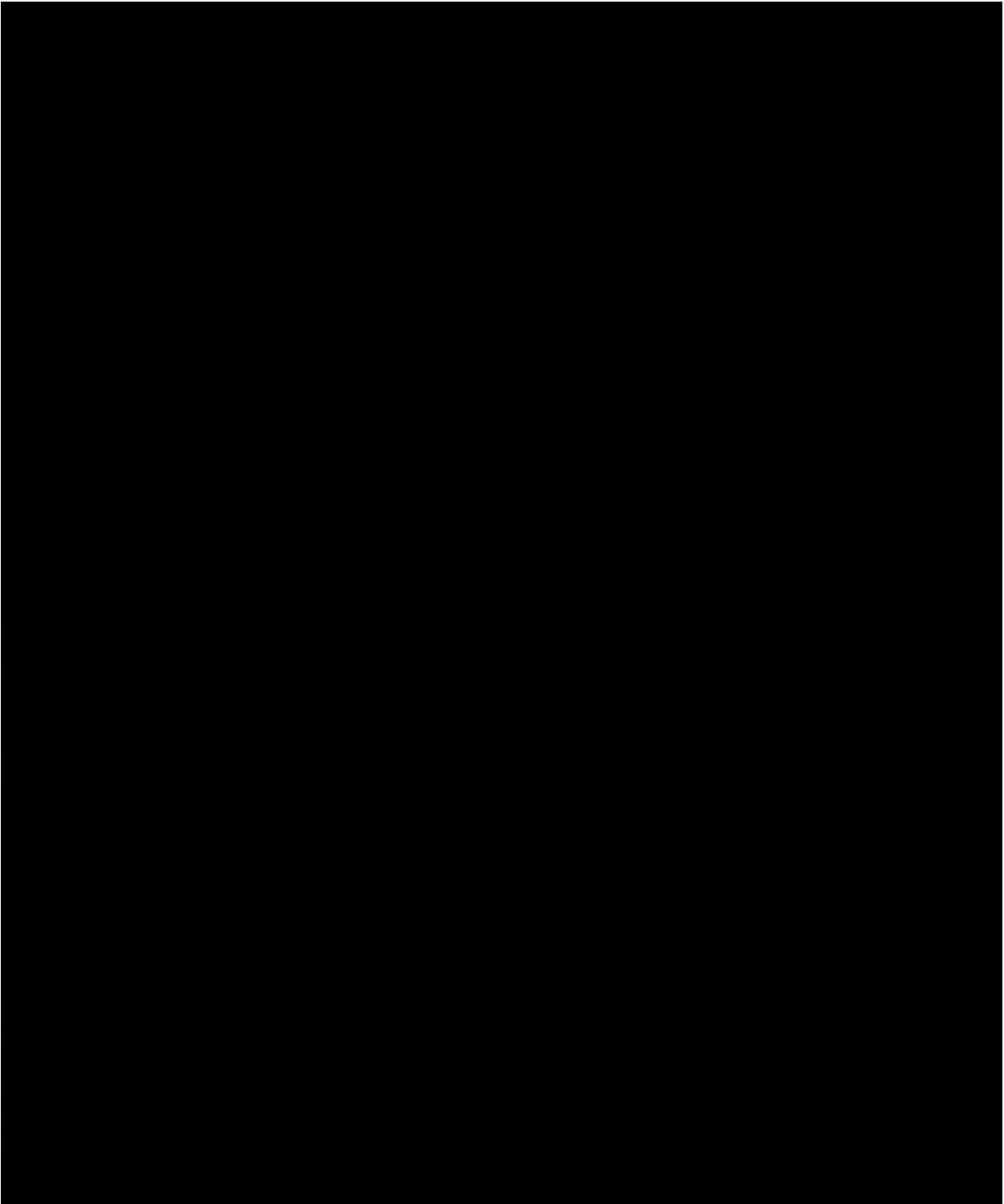
8. LIAISON OFFICER

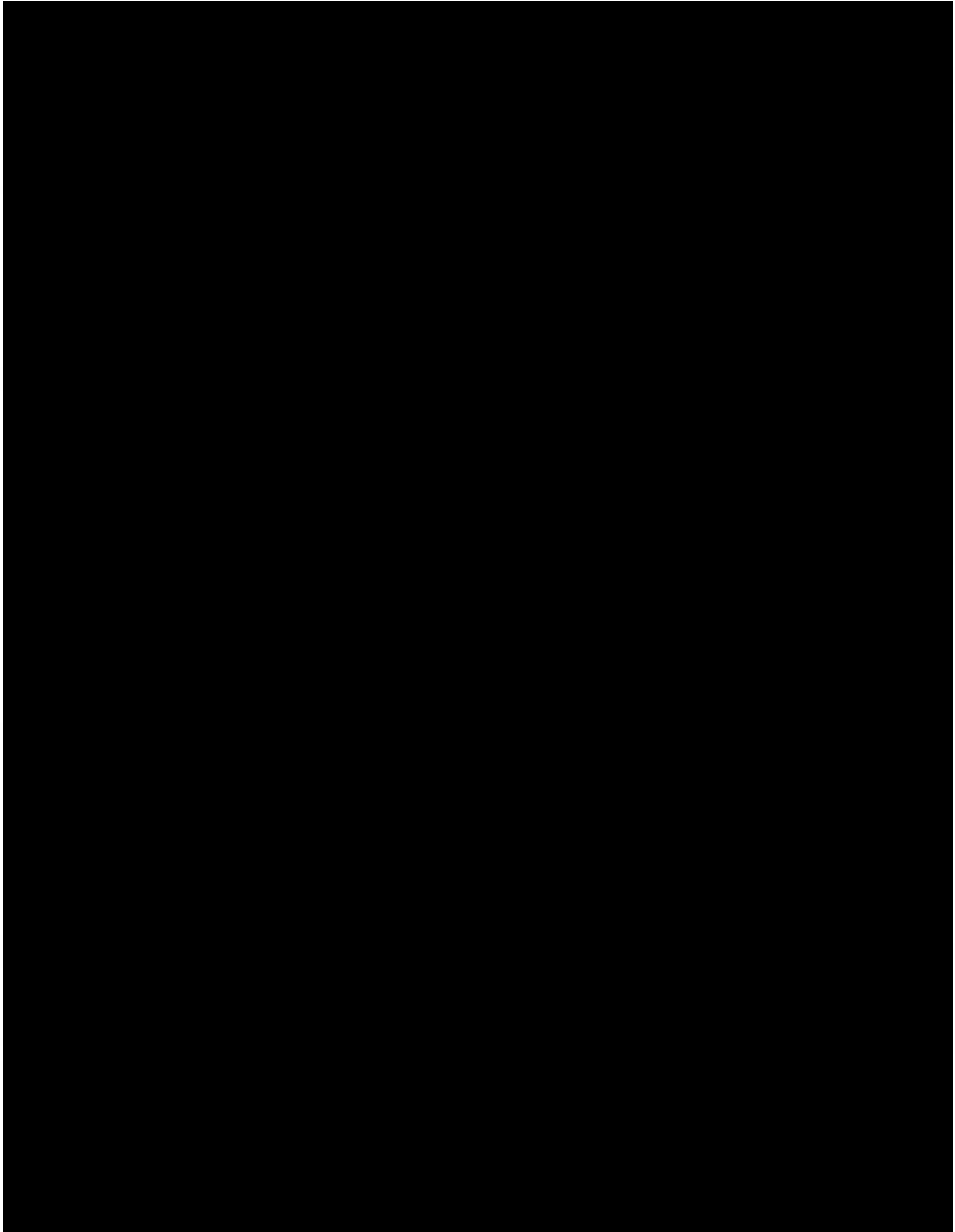
8.1 The P.N.C. Broadcast activating the M.A.C.C. will request the name and telephone number of Force Liaison Officer(s).

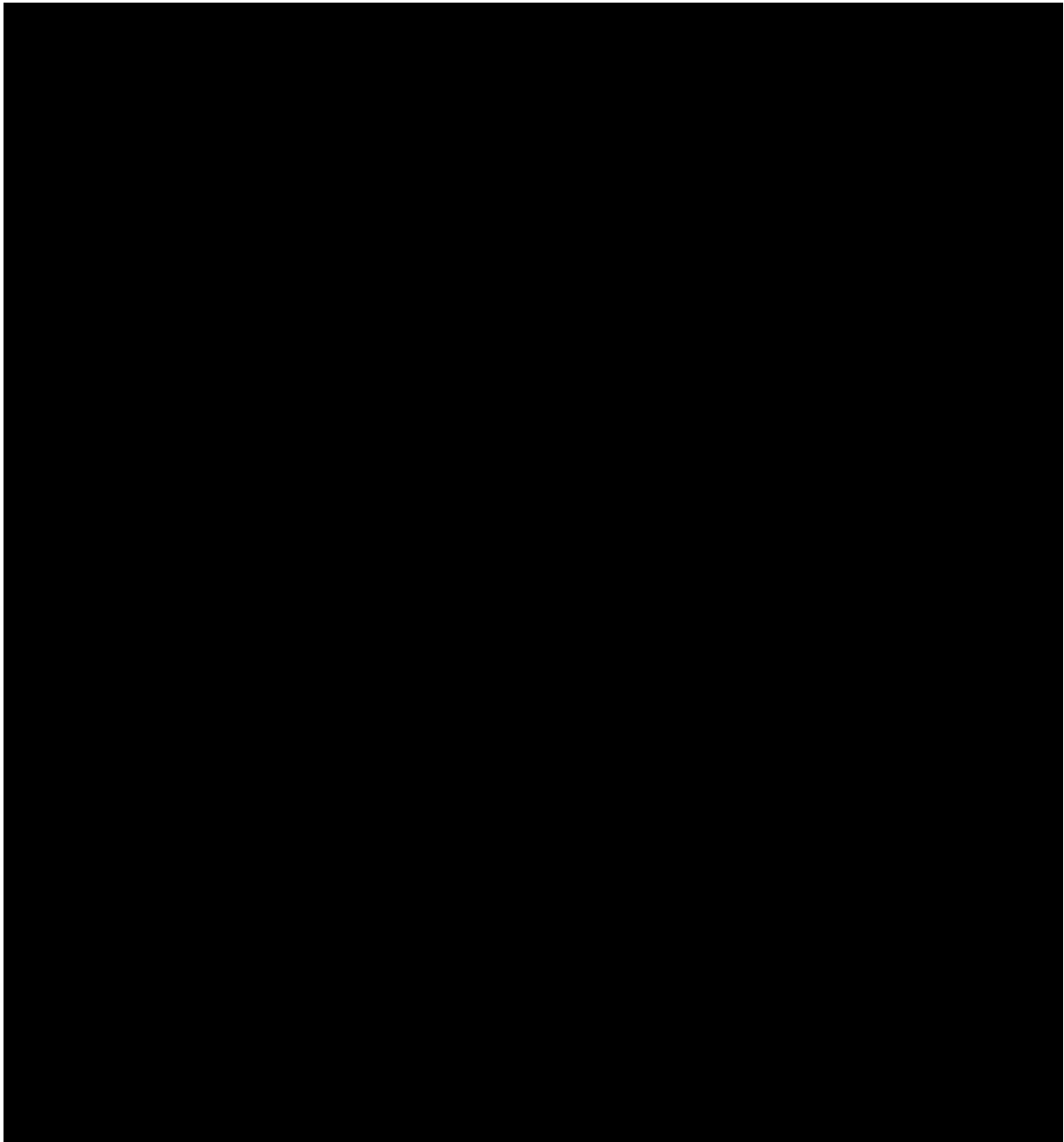


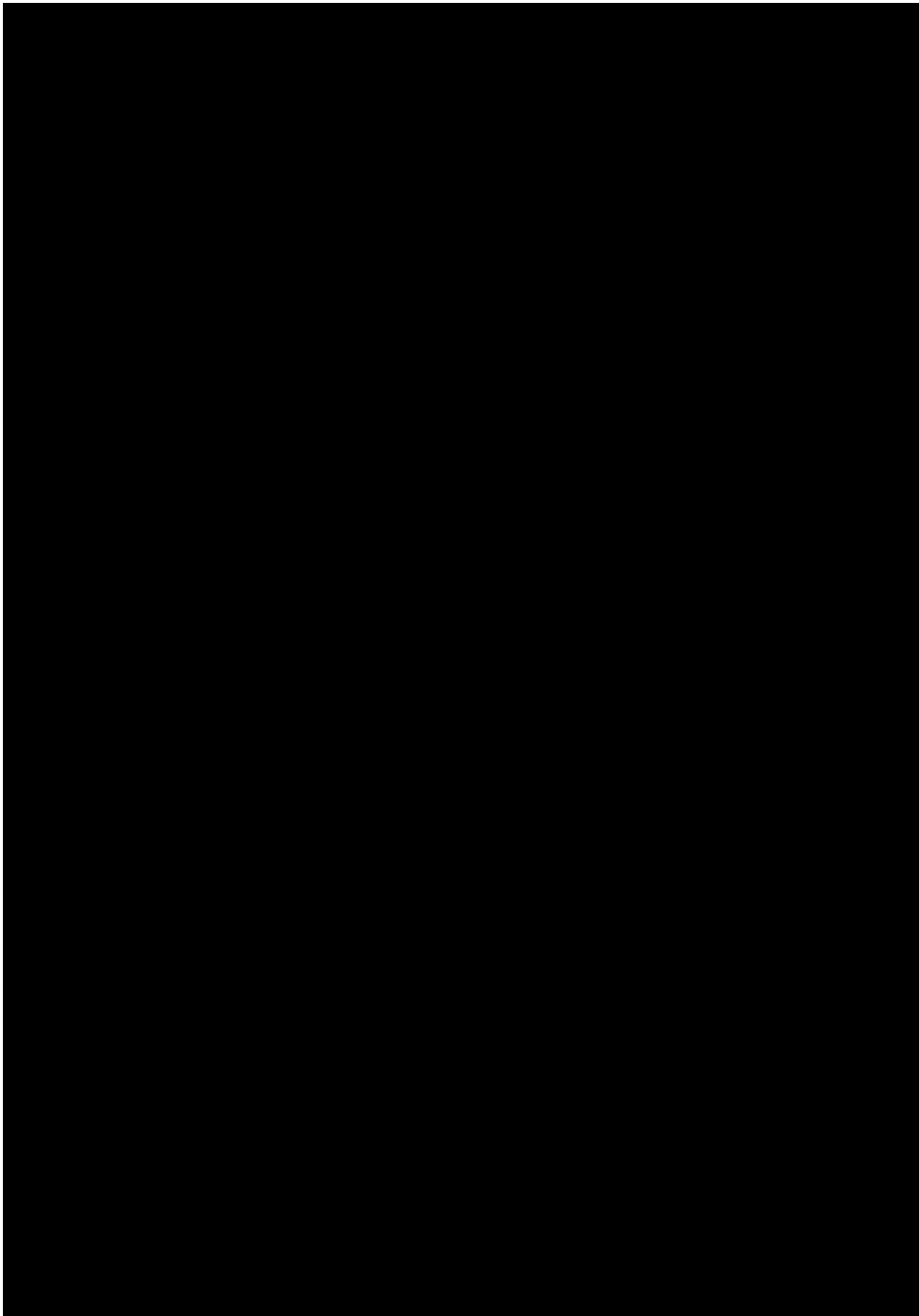


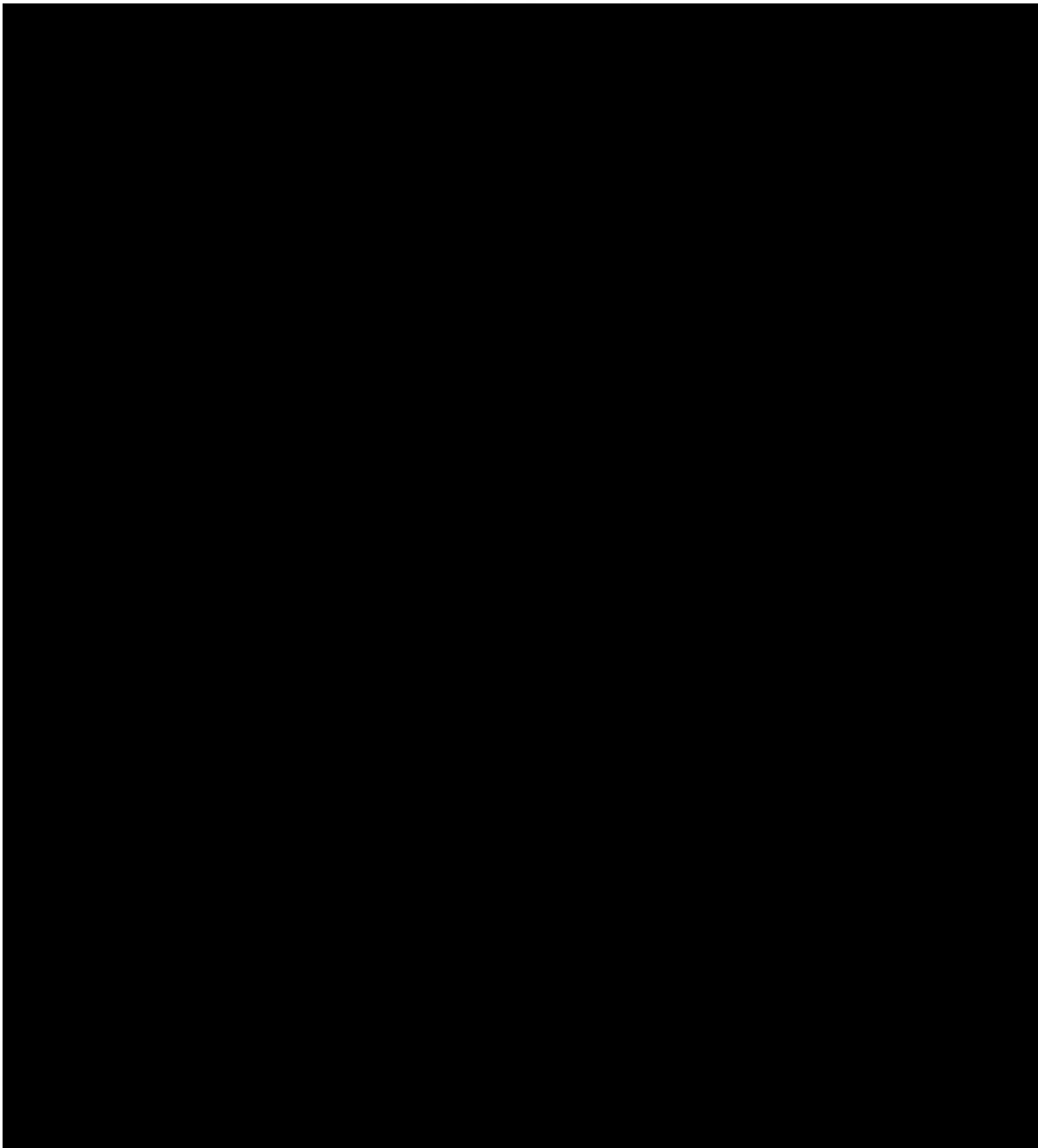






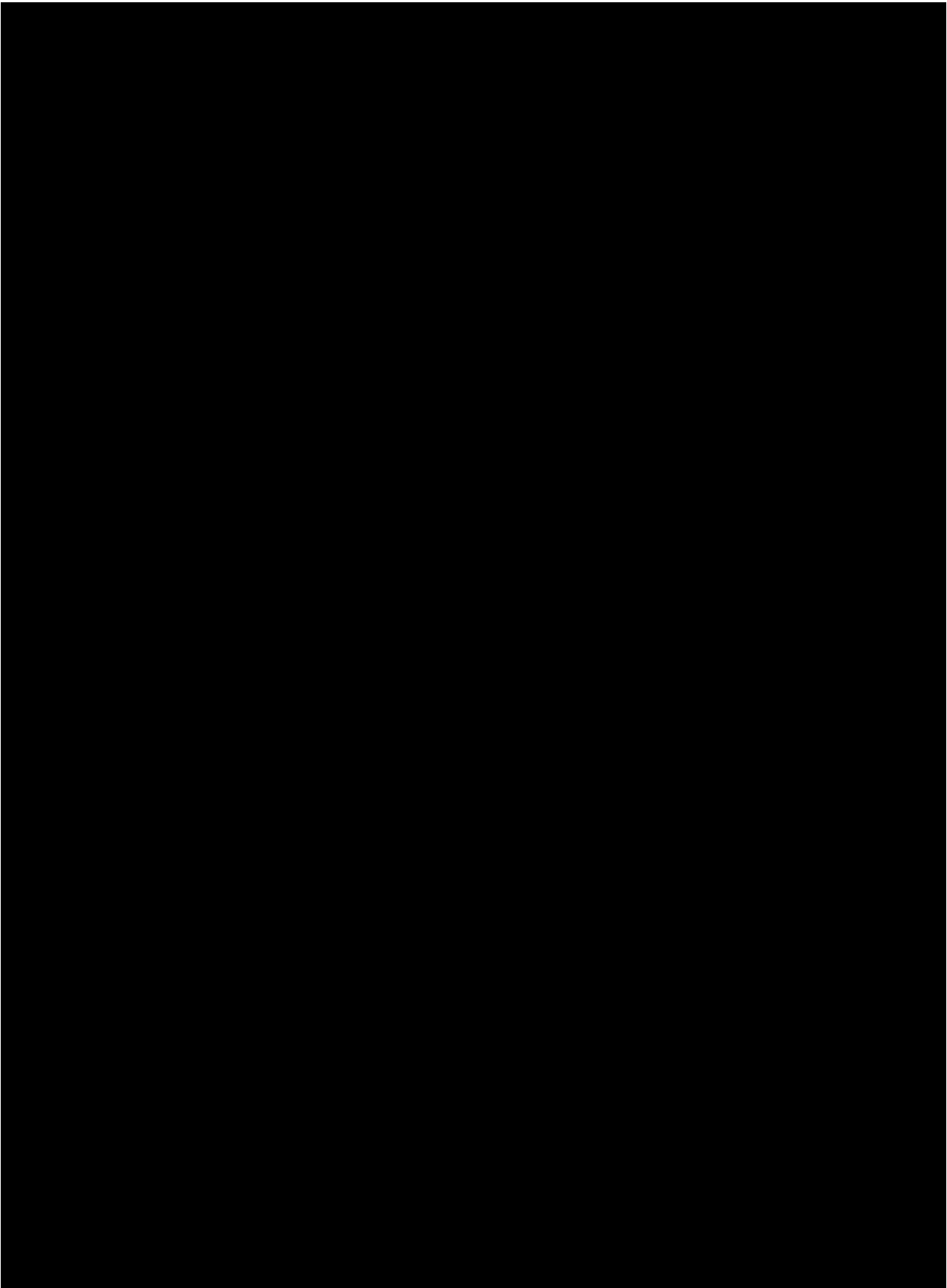


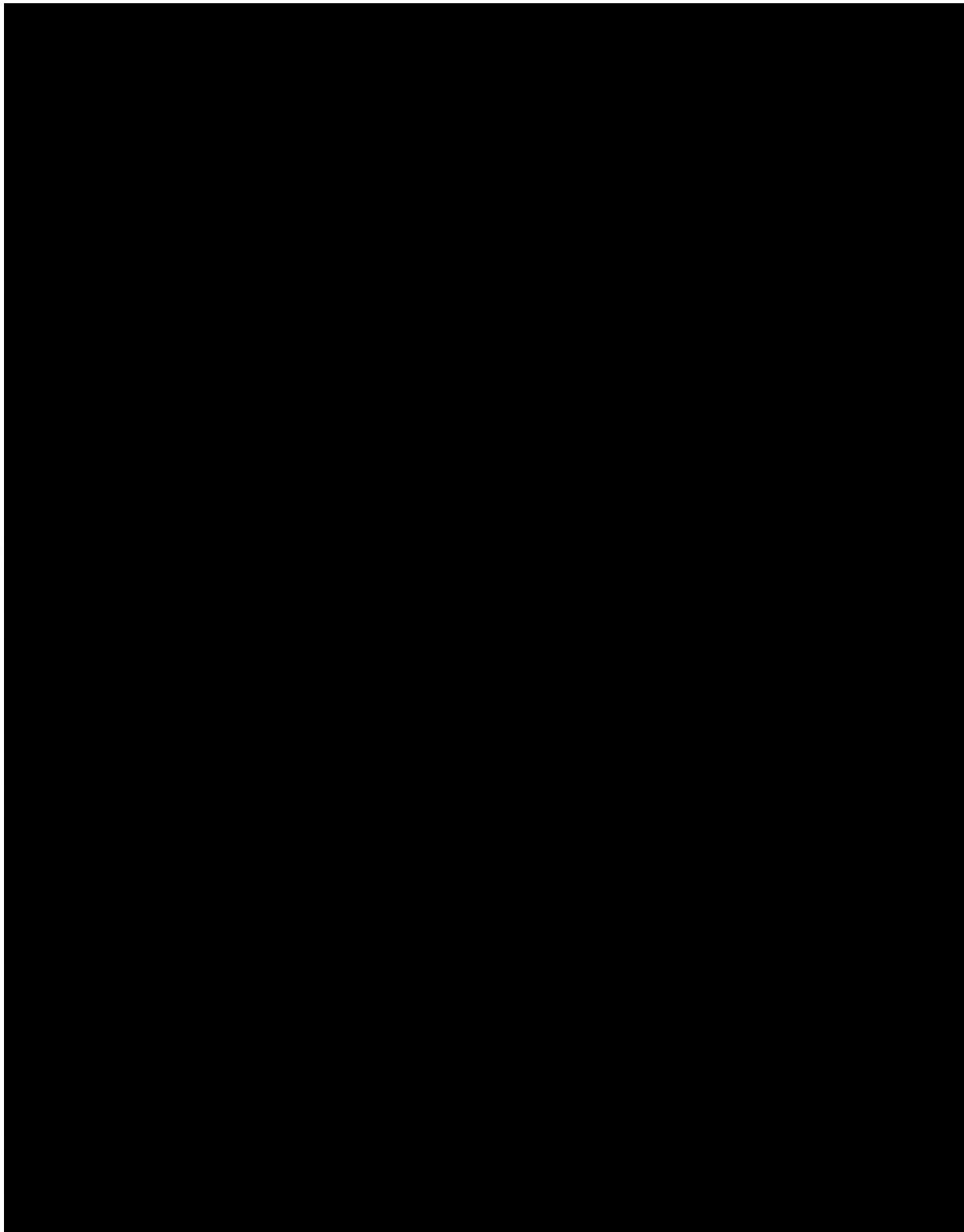




FORCE M.A.C.C. NUMBERS

1. AVON AND SOMERSET
2. BEDFORDSHIRE
3. CAMBRIDGESHIRE
4. CHESHIRE
5. CITY OF LONDON
6. CLEVELAND
7. CUMBRIA
8. DERBYSHIRE
9. DEVON AND CORNWALL
10. DORSET
11. DURHAM
12. DYFED-POWYS
13. ESSEX
14. GLOUCESTERSHIRE
15. GREATER MANCHESTER
16. GWENT
17. HAMPSHIRE
18. HERTFORDSHIRE
19. HUMBERSIDE
20. KENT
21. LANCASHIRE
22. LEICESTERSHIRE
23. LINCOLNSHIRE
24. MERSEYSIDE
25. METROPOLITAN
26. NORFOLK
27. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
28. NORTHUMBRIA
29. NORTH WALES
30. NORTH YORKSHIRE
31. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
32. SOUTH WALES
33. SOUTH YORKSHIRE
34. STAFFORDSHIRE
35. SUFFOLK
36. SURREY
37. SUSSEX
38. THAMES VALLEY
39. WARWICKSHIRE
40. WEST MERCIA
41. WEST MIDLANDS
42. WEST YORKSHIRE
43. WILTSHIRE





INFORMATION SHEET HEADINGS

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|
| i) | Introduction | - | An informal welcome to the force area etc |
| ii) | Situation | - | The current state of the incident |
| iii) | Force Policy | - | A statement of policy from the chief officer of police |
| iv) | Objectives | - | The reasons and aims for the deployment |
| v) | Tactics | - | A general synopsis of the tactics to be employed to ensure the successful execution of (iv) |
| vi) | Command | - | An outline of the command structure |
| vii) | Duties | - | The tour of duty to be performed |
| viii) | Communications | - | Radio allocation channels in use, call signs, any black spots in the area for communications, relevant telephone numbers |
| ix) | Accommodation and Welfare | - | Location of accommodation - feeding centres - local amenities |
| x) | Geography | - | Personnel from the home Force or from outside may not know the area - suitable maps are required |
| xi) | Intelligence | - | The need for debriefing and the methods involved i.e. debrief sheets, location of debriefing centres, use of photographs. |

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONNAIRE

Questioning Procedures

- i) Establish time deployed and released.
- ii) Divide route into sections, if appropriate.
- iii) Use map/photographs and start questioning giving similar questions to each unit. Sample questions:-

Description of route between point A and B.

Cars - usual, not normally there, number plates, colours, heavily laden, double yellow line parking, antenna, etc.

Houses - windows, curtains, chimneys, appearance, milk bottles, gardens, etc.

Shops - closed but normally open.

Personalities - strangers, known personalities, attitude.

Ground - disturbed, recently repaired/damaged fences and hedges, road works.

Animals - absence/presence.

The Obvious - Beware taking anything for granted.

- iv) Rumours - To include those hear from various sources like:-
 - a) Police
 - b) Press
 - c) Public
 - d) Demonstrators
- v) Sightings of suspicious movements/behaviour of:-
 - a) Press
 - b) Public
 - c) Demonstrators
 - d) Vehicles