# Guide for Dealing with a National Security Person of Interest (POI)

## Before You Start

### Research (before you go)
- **THINK TENR**
  - Get to know your POI (full NIA review, i.e. history of violence, childhood, exposure to violence, substance abuse...)
  - Consider reaching out to staff who have submitted a contact noting before
  - Discuss any concerns with NSIT staff
  - Conduct an appreciation: identify aim, factors, options open and preferred course of action
  - Consider HSMU request
  - Complete Interview Plan
  - Search & Surveillance Act options/restrictions
  - Consider your approach, be impartial – you are asking about a person’s beliefs

## Interview

### Interaction (face to face contact)
- Explain why you are there
- Build rapport early. Your research should enable you to find some topics to help start a conversation
- Clarify POIs behaviours / ideology - is anything currently stressing, triggering them?
- Establish access to firearms / weapons
- Assess receptiveness to assistance i.e. support services
- What supports do they have in place (family, work, sport, etc.)?
- Any preoccupation with violence?
- Evidence of deceptiveness and manipulation (or gut instinct)
- Obtain current contact details
- Obtain social media usernames and email addresses. What groups do they belong to and what sites do they visit?
- Are there associates that they have concerns about
- Consider travel history (past/future)
- **DEAL** with any offences disclosed

## Visual Indicators

### Observations (during your visit)
- Security Awareness (i.e. CCTV, other paranoia?)
- Lifestyle conditions
- Appearance / clothing
- How do they engage, i.e. open or closed?
- Attitude to self (narcissistic /entitled, need for attention, positive, future focussed)
- Any emotion displayed?
- Mental state/alcohol/drugs?
- Visible expressions – journals, notes, literature, images, symbols associated with ideologies
- Visible online platforms (Chat, gaming, FB, Twitter...)
- Any weapons/ knives decorative/otherwise accessible
- Any family / immediate associates present?
- The more of the house you get to see (by consent), the better your assessment

## Prevention

### Protective Factors
- are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that mitigate or eliminate risk. These can include:
  - Engaged in education
  - Engaged in work
  - Strong relationships with partner/family/friends
  - Social connections/sport
  - Resilience
  - Empathy

## Reporting

### Record and Report (Summary of findings)
- Obtain as much information as possible
- Report should be chronological with themes or topics
- Detail findings from visual observations and face to face contact
- Full names and addresses of associated and family members to be recorded
- Outline protective factors in place
- Include your thoughts and feelings regarding level of risk
- Consider a verbal or face to face debrief with NSIT staff
- Enter a NIA event / noting
  (if in doubt over recording some details, please speak to your supervisor)

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**Bystanders** are those in the POIs social or professional circle who have insight to their overall state of mind and physical well being. If necessary, these can be interviewed at a later date to further assess any posed or perceived risk.

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**Does the person have the opportunity, capability and intent to action any perceived threat?**