



Airwave vetting position summary

Sample Borough Council · Example Police

POSITION

Clarify, ask the police force for its reasoning

Reply accepting the requirement in principle, and ask the police force how it has classified the radio and to send you the risk assessment behind the demand.

NEXT STEP

Send the letter this toolkit produces. It does not refuse the requirement. It asks the police force how the radio is classified and who decided that, for a copy of the risk assessment behind the demand and for the reasoning that connects them to your operators. Ask that transition arrangements are not finalised until you have a reply.

LEVEL SUPPORTED

NPPV, or Non-Police Personnel Vetting, is the clearance a police force gives to people who are not police staff.

The reasons the police force gives describe NPPV Level 2 Abbreviated, which is paragraph 5.6.10.a of the College of Policing vetting guidance, not Level 2 Full. The police force is requiring one level on the reasoning for another.

THE FIVE TESTS

The five tests are questions asked of the police force's demand, not of your service. Green means the point helps your case. Amber means it helps the police force's case, or that it is not yet settled.

Test	Status	Reasoning
Does the national police vetting guidance name CCTV operators at this level?	Does not support the demand	The College of Policing's Vetting Authorised Professional Practice of May 2025, the national police vetting guidance, sets no vetting level for council CCTV staff. Its section 5.8 lists the roles that do have a prescribed level and CCTV operators are not among them. Airwave is not mentioned anywhere in the document. Council CCTV units appear once, at page 136, with no level attached to them.
Does the demand rest on operators entering police premises?	Does not support the demand	The police force cites regular unescorted access to police premises, but your control room is on council premises and your operators do not enter police premises to do the job, so that reason does not apply to them at all. Paragraph 5.6.10.a of the College of Policing vetting guidance also covers access to official-sensitive material from a remote location, and it does so at the Abbreviated level rather than the Full one.
Has the police force evidenced unsupervised access to police computer systems?	Does not support the demand	The reasons the police force gives are access to official-sensitive information or access to police premises. NPPV Level 2 Abbreviated already covers both of those. Unsupervised access to police computer systems, the one thing that would take the role up to Level 2 Full, is not claimed anywhere in the letter.

Your operators are screened to BS 7558:2019, the British Standard for screening people who work in secure environments. It covers CCTV monitoring roles, and BS 7958:2015, the British Standard for running a CCTV control room, requires it. That screening covers identity, right to work, five years of employment history, financial probity and criminal record checks, so the police force should say what NPPV Level 2 Full addresses that this does not.

The police force's published non-police personnel vetting procedure, its NPPV procedure, does not mention CCTV control rooms or Airwave among the roles it lists. Ask the police force which document, if any, it is relying on to require this level for this job.

The letter does not say who decided that the radio counts as a police computer system. Ask the police force for that person's name or job title, because everything else follows from that decision.

Refer the matter to the CCTV User Group so the police force's position can be compared with other police forces.