

Subterfuge as a last resort, justified only by what could not be got otherwise.

The test most codes apply, in order.

1

Is the story serious?

Substantial public interest, not general curiosity or a better picture.

2

Is there another way?

Documented attempts at open methods must have failed or be futile.

3

Is it proportionate?

The intrusion must be no greater than the story genuinely requires.

4

Authorised in advance?

Senior sign-off, recorded, before anything covert begins.

5

Disclosed to the audience?

Explain what was done and why, in the published piece.

Educational reference. Covert recording is regulated by law as well as by codes, and legality varies by country and by consent rules.