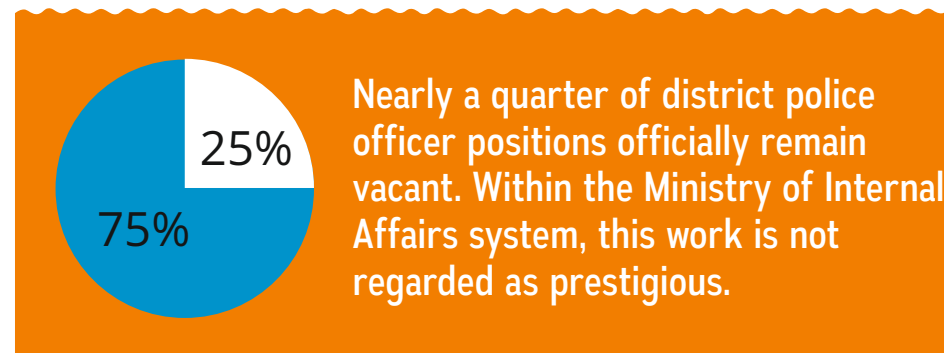




A district commissioner of the police force (district police officer, or uchastkovyi) is an indispensable member of the police, since they perform almost all functions related to control, prevention and investigation of criminal offences within the geographical area of a particular administrative district.



At the moment, any law graduate with good health certificate that satisfies the work requirements may become a district police officer.



Policemen firmly believe that accepting the district police officer's position means **staying there forever** and one might only change position if a replacement can be found.

Everyday life of a district police officer

The main location of the district officer is a so-called base station (separate offices located as close as possible to the district which the officer is responsible for).



In towns, a base station is shared by a number of active district officers.



In rural areas, an individual base station is established for each district officer.

- 1 In order to obtain every single relevant signature or a document, a district officer needs to walk / drive to the relevant police station which even in cities could be located kilometres away (in rural areas a distance may be much farther).
- 2 Such geographical dispersion provokes the superiors' suspiciousness and overdirecting; frequent inspections are common with special focus on formalities.



One of the duties of a district officer is the compilation of journals (so-called 'district passports' or 'apartment block passports') which are hand-written equivalents of databases. Use of electronic tools such as Access or Excel is formally restricted by Russian personal data protection laws. Although the district officers bypass this restriction, they still spend a considerable part of their working day on handwriting, making lists of persons on parole, supervised persons with criminal records and other categories of citizens, including law-abiding persons.

Adopting an official electronic document management system instead of maintaining a double-flow (both physical and e-documents) could help reducing the workflow and save time.

DISTRICT POLICE OFFICER IN CLEAR TERMS

Who is a district officer and what is their job?

The position of district police commissioner only exists in former Soviet republics. Despite drastic changes in social and economic models, this profession is still in high demand. However, the general public only seem to be aware of one aspect of the district officer's activities; they appear to be similar to a social worker with additional regulatory and penal functions. This poster provides information and illustrates the mechanism behind their work and the problems they face.

The district officer attends some calls for the police single-handedly (especially in rural areas). It is often the district officer as an official representative of the authority who registers the event of a crime.

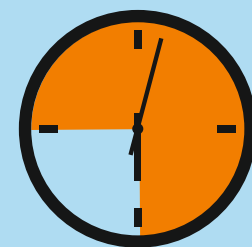
If an operational group of detectives or another field unit has arrived at a crime scene, a district officer still has to be called upon (especially when the event or the crime has been confirmed), except in the case of criminal traffic incidents.

If a district officer has a reputation of a conscientious worker, they are often involved in the investigation activities that take place in their district, since they are familiar with the local situation and people.

It happens sometimes that a district officer manages to identify the offender using their knowledge of the area within the first 24 hours of a crime being committed. However, they cannot conduct any further investigation work due to their extensive workload, which is common to all the district officers.

A district officer has to identify offences within their district (thus demonstrating that they conduct preventive activities), i.e. producing a number of protocols on administrative offences each week. They are also expected to 'discover' small-scale criminal offences (physical abuse or murder threats), which also count as crime prevention.

District officers spend most of their time with 'refusal papers'; on average, a district officer completes about 5 statements of refusal to institute a criminal case per week.



It takes between 2 hours and a whole working day to process one statement of refusal.

15 to 40 hand-written pages is the size of a typical refusal statement.



6 770 918 refusals to institute a criminal case were issued at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2014

1 757 660 criminal cases were instituted by the MIA in 2014



Nearly every complaint/application submitted by a member of the public is followed by a formal 'resolution to refuse to institute a criminal case' even if the applicant does not believe a criminal case should be filed at all. Such refusal statements undergo numerous checks at various levels: from MIA superiors of different standing to the prosecution officers. In order to make the refusal statement seem reasonable, it is important to create the impression that the work has been completed, but that the facts could not be confirmed.

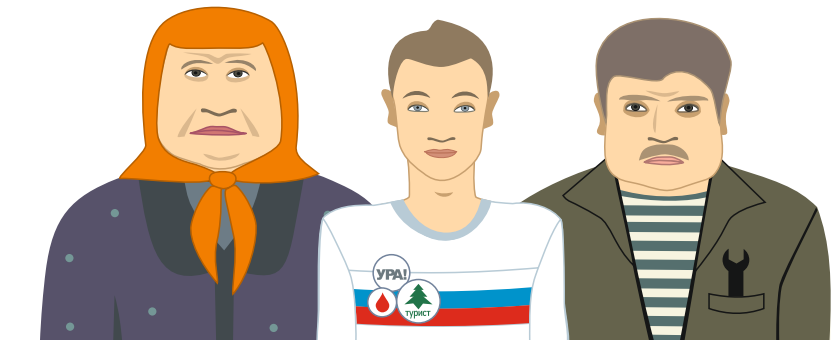
The ratio between filed criminal cases and refusals at the MIA is 1:4

3000 According to the official personnel data, there is one district officer per 3,000 citizens.

7000 The data provided by the IRL demonstrates the true workload showing a ratio of one district officer per 5,000-7,000 citizens.

District officer and the general public

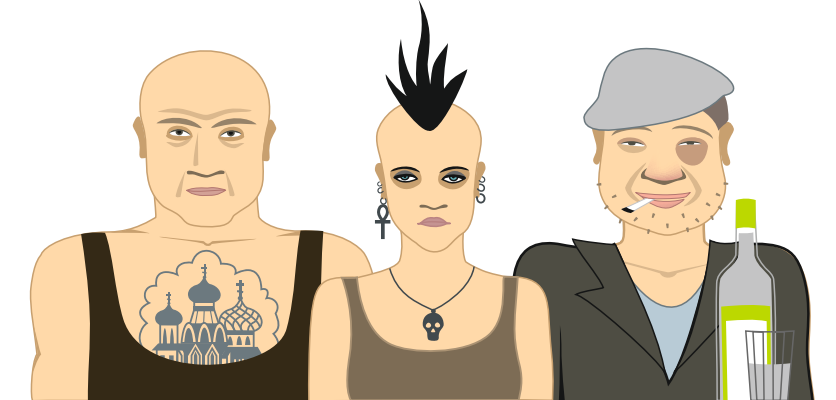
QUARRELERS AND LOCAL ACTIVISTS



These are core social types for a district officer's activities; their opinions do matter. District officers also used to have well-established skills in communication with local non-profit organizations (service clubs, patriotic youth organizations etc.). District officers are expected to perform simple acts of assistance to them (often very formal in nature), which count as 'cooperation with local community'.

Persons with unlimited free time at their disposal, eager to communicate with authorities, to issue claims, proposals etc. (many of them are retired senior citizens); persons involved in protracted litigations/ household conflicts with neighbours or family members; professional litigants.

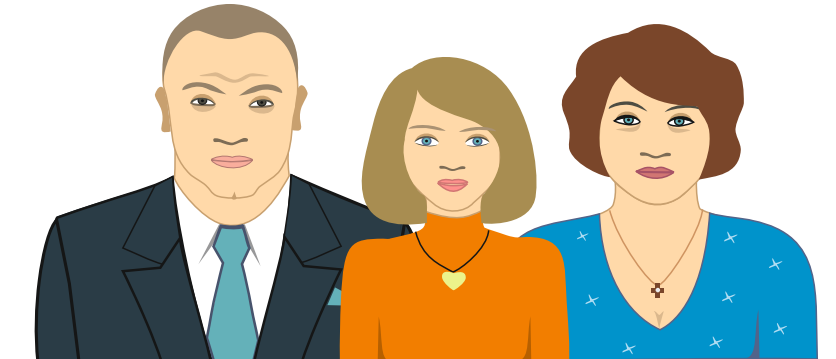
REPRESENTATIVES OF RISK GROUPS



District officers are used to communicate with such social types. There are several methods for working with these groups, partially inherited from Soviet times.

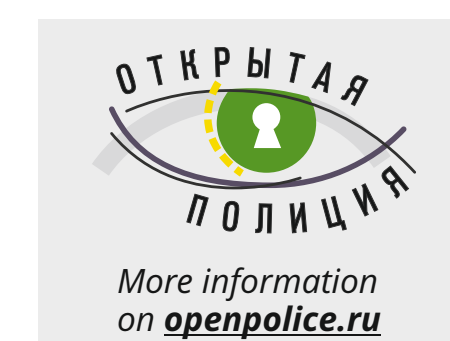
Individuals with prior convictions, poorly integrated into society; unemployed individuals/ people without regular income with riotous lifestyle; persons with alcohol and drug dependency (including those subjected previously to compulsory treatment), high conflict individuals with a record of complaints from their relatives/ neighbours, persons with mental disorders with reported aggressive behaviour.

RIGHT-MINDED CITIZENS



Persons with a steady income, not prone to domestic violence, without antisocial behavior/ criminal antecedents, harmful habits or addictions.

Generally, a district officer has no standard guidelines for work with offenders and victims with a background of social conformity. Normally, a law-abiding citizen can receive some information, recommendation or a piece of advice from a district officer.



The 'Open Police' web portal is being created in order to monitor the transparency and openness of law enforcement bodies and the police force in particular.



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