Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

undercover

I. under cover [undercover] BrE [, Andə'kAVə(i)] NAmE [, Andər'kAVəi]

adjective usually before noun

working or done secretly in order to find out information for the police, a government, etc

• an undercover agent

• an undercover operation / investigation

Example Bank:

- He stars as a New York police detective who goes undercoverto investigate the narcotics trade.
- The illegal payments were discovered by a journalist working undercover.

Example Bank:

• There were undercoveragents all over the hotel.

• II. under cover adverb

• The illegal payments were discovered by a journalist working undercover .

Main entry: [†]undercover_{derived}

undercover

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

un der cover /, Andə'kAvə · \$ -dər'kAvər / BrE AmE adjective [only before noun]

[Word Family: noun: ↑cover, ↑coverage, ↑covering, adjective: ↑undercover, ↑covered ≠UNCOVERED; verb: ↑cover ≠ ↑uncover, adverb: ↑undercover]

undercoverwork is done secretly by the police in order to catch criminals or find out information:

an <u>undercoverinvestigation</u>

undercoverpoliceman/cop/agent etc

^{*} undercoverdetectives

-undercover adverb:

- a cop who goes undercover to catch drug dealers
- He <u>worked</u> <u>undercover</u>in Germany and Northern Ireland.

THESAURUS

• secret known about by only a few people, who have agreed not to tell anyone else: a secret meeting place | The details of the proposal must remain secret.

• confidential used about information, especially in business or government, that is secret and not intended to be shown or told to other people: a highly confidential report | Employees' personal details are treated as strictly confidential.

- classified used about information that the government has ordered to be kept secret from most people: He was accused of passing on classified information to the Russians in the 1950s.

sensitive used about information that is kept secret because there would be problems if the wrong people knew it: A teenager managed to hack into sensitive US Air Force files.

- covert [only before noun] used about things that are done secretly, especially by a government or official organization: a CIA covert operation

• undercover [usually before noun] used about things that are done secretly by the police in order to catch criminals or find out information: Detectives arrested the suspect after a five-day undercover operation.

• underground an underground organization or newspaper is one that operates or is produced secretly and opposes the government: Her father was a member of the underground resistance movement in France during World War II.

- clandestine /klæn'destən, klæn'destɪn/ secret and often illegal or immoral: clandestine meetings | his involvementin a clandestine operation to sell arms to Iran | a clandestine love affair

• hush-hush informal used about information or activities that are kept officially secret: He was put in charge of some hush-hush military project. | I've no idea what he does – it's all very hush-hush.

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