Financial
Includes the receipt of monetary reward or in-kind payment (i.e. payment of rent, tools, vehicles, phones, clothes). One of the more common forms of motivation for authorised informants.

Ideology / Moral
Information is provided about a person or group who possess ideas or beliefs at odds with those held by the informant (i.e. a terrorist may start to question the validity of the original basis for their engagement with the terrorist group).

Revenge
Information is provided to harm or place another in a detrimental position (i.e. arrested) in response to a previous injury or perceived wrongdoing (i.e. as a result of an acrimonious breakup of a personal or criminal relationship).

Excitement
Undertaking the role of an informant offers the individual a feeling of excitement, eagerness, or arousal.

Protection
Passing information to authorities to protect the informant from persons or networks threatening them, their criminal enterprises, or their family. The cooperation aims to provide information that encourages police action to diminish this threat.

Lifestyle
The role played by the informant provides the individual with an enhanced lifestyle, either as a consequence of deployments and/or payments.

Access
The informant relationship provides an opportunity for counter-penetration to identify agency interest in offending networks and associates. This may include deliberate infiltration by criminals to understand the nature of police tasking and levels of interest in them or their competitor’s criminal enterprises.

Coercion
Information is provided to avoid carrying out a threat made by an official (i.e. the threat of deportation; being prevented access to or from a country; or blackmail after being caught in compromising situations).

Ego
Undertaking the role of an informant enhances the individual’s self-esteem or self-importance. Where this ego starts to impact the veracity of provided information, these are sometimes colloquially known as ‘Walter-Mitty’ informants.

Sentence
Information is shared to mitigate the length of a likely forthcoming prison sentence or release from detention. There is already UK legal precedent for rewarding people who provide intelligence to authorities.