

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – Annual Report on Authorisations

Portfolio:	N/A
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To report on the number of authorisations made by officers in the municipal year 2014/15

Background

1. Under its terms of reference the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee receives an annual report from the RIPA Monitoring Officer in respect of authorisations granted for directed surveillance or the use of covert human intelligence sources to officers pursuant to the powers granted to the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”).
2. The Council’s current RIPA Policy provides that any authorisations, including authorisations for renewal, are required to be notified to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Monitoring Officer (RMO).

Current Position

3. As required annually, the RIPA Policy has been reviewed and remains compliant with Home Office guidance. A copy of the current Policy is attached for information.
4. The Office of Surveillance Commission (“OSC”) inspected the Council’s records of its use of RIPA in November 2014 as part of its 3 yearly inspections of local authorities. During that inspection the OSC made several comments about the current Policy. These were to add further details about the process of obtaining Magistrates approval. The Policy has been altered to reflect this and is published on the Council’s website.
5. I am pleased to report that the Inspector, in his conclusion, said;

This may be regarded as a very satisfactory inspection. A very professional, efficient, knowledgeable and enthusiastic team of officers is extremely very well placed to run a RIPA compliant operation should the Council decide to make use of the RIPA provisions.

Authorisations

6. During the municipal year 2014/2015 there were no authorisations, reviews or renewals under RIPA for the carrying out of direct surveillance.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is advised to note that there was no authorisations for directed surveillance granted during the 2014/15 municipal years.

Background Papers: None

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