

# Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act - IPCO Inspection and Annual Return

## REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



<b>DATE</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	Resources and Performance Management
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### PURPOSE

1. To provide members with an update of authorisations issued under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”).

### RECOMMENDATION

2. To note the update on authorisations issued under RIPA.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure the Council’s RIPA powers are operated lawfully.

### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. RIPA regulates the Council’s use of covert surveillance to prevent and detect criminal activity.
5. The Council is subject to regular inspection by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office (IPCO) to ensure that its policies and procedures are operated in a lawful manner. The latest inspection was a telephone and desk- top based assessment which took place in March 2020. The report of the Investigatory Power’s Commissioner received in April 2020 was satisfied that the Council was complying with the legislation but did make recommendations which would further strengthen compliance. These include revising the policy and ensuring staff are appropriately trained. Work on the recommendations is on-going but has been delayed due to the pandemic. It is intended to bring a draft revised policy to the next meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee.
6. In accordance with previous recommendations of the IPCO, reports on RIPA activity (or lack of it) should be made periodically to elected members. The details of activity in the financial year 2019/20 are that there was no surveillance activity necessitating authorisation under RIPA in the financial year 2019/20.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

7. None

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

8. None

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

9. None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10. Letter of the Right Honourable Sir Brian Leveson, Investigatory Powers Commissioner dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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