

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act - OSC Inspection and Annual Return

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	26th July 2017
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
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PURPOSE

1. To report on the outcome of the latest inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (“OSC”) and provide members with an update of authorisations issued under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”).

RECOMMENDATION

2. To note the recommendation made by the OSC and 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 OSC to ensure that its policies and procedures are operated in a lawful manner.
6. The OSC issued the report arising out of their latest inspection in February 2017 by Sir David Clarke, Assistant Surveillance Commissioner.
7. On this occasion, in light of the information provided by officers, the OSC were able to carry out their auditing procedures without a physical inspection.
8. The conclusion drawn by the OSC Report is that the Council’s arrangements for RIPA compliance remain in essentially good order. The Report also commends the attention which the Council gives to its RIPA policy and the continuing RIPA awareness.

9. Three recommendations are made by the OSC: -

- a. That the Council's RIPA Policy and Guidance be further revised – this has now been done and a copy of the updated policy is attached at Appendix A.
- b. That the Streetscene guidance document be reconsidered and revised – this has been done and a copy of the updated guidance document is attached at Appendix B.
- c. That reports on RIPA activity (or lack of it) be made periodically to elected members – details of activity in the financial year 2016/2017 are detailed below (paragraph 10)

10. There has been no surveillance activity necessitating authorisation under RIPA in the financial year 2016/2017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. The RIPA Corporate Policy has been revised.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. OSC Inspection Report dated February 2017

FURTHER INFORMATION

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ALSO: DAVID TALBOT