

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29 March 2012

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

1.1. The Council's Code of Practice for carrying out surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) specifies that quarterly reports will be taken to Audit & Governance Committee to demonstrate to elected members that the Council is complying with its own Code of Practice when using RIPA.

1.2. On 14 December 2010, the Council adopted the RIPA policy and agreed that quarterly reports on the use of RIPA powers be submitted to Audit & Governance Committee.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That Audit and Governance Committee endorse the quarterly RIPA monitoring report.

3. Background Information

3.1. The RIPA Code of Practice produced by the Home Office in April 2010 introduced the requirement to produce quarterly reports to elected members to demonstrate that the Council is using its RIPA powers appropriately and complying with its own Code of Practice when carrying out covert surveillance. This requirement relates to the use of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources (CHIS).

3.2. The table below shows the Council's use of directed surveillance in the current financial year to provide an indication of the level of use of covert surveillance at the Council. There have been no applications under RIPA in the period from 1 January 2012 to the date of this report.

3.3. The table outlines the number of times RIPA has been used for directed surveillance, the month of use, the service authorising the surveillance and a general description of the reasons for the surveillance. Where and investigation is ongoing at the end of a quarterly period it will not be reported until the authorisation has been cancelled. At the end of the current quarterly period there are no outstanding authorisations.

3.4. There have been no authorisations for the use of CHIS.

Financial year 2011/12

Month	Service	Reason
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No applications		
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4. Background papers

4.1. None

"If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting please contact Jane M Hackett Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer on Ext.258"