

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2014

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

Purpose

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.

On 13 December 2012, the Council adopted a new RIPA policy and agreed that quarterly reports on the use of RIPA powers be submitted to Audit & Governance Committee.

Recommendation

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

Background Information

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).

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 quarterly period from 1 January 2013 to the date of this report.

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.

There have been no authorisations for the use of CHIS.

In January 2014, 23 Officers received RIPA refresher training. This included the Chief Executive, the Senior Responsible Officer, Authorising Officers, and the Officers who would prepare and present applications as well as internal auditors.

Financial year 2013/14

Month	Service	Reason
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No applications		
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Background papers

None		
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Dated 17 June 2014. "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"