

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	21 September 2017
Subject: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – update report	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Neil Davies, Town Clerk’s Department	

Summary

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 regulates surveillance carried out by public authorities in the conduct of their business, specifically the monitoring, recording and interception of communications; the requisition, provision and handling of communications data; and the use of directed covert surveillance.

To ensure that the City Corporation remains compliant with the requirements set by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners during their visit in September 2015, and the relevant Codes of Practice, this report confirms that no requests under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 have been received by the RIPA Monitoring Officer/Co-ordinator since the last report to the Policy and Resources Committee in January 2017. One request to undertake directed surveillance (outside of the scope of RIPA) has been sought and authorised in accordance with the Corporation’s Policy and Procedure.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to note this report.

Main Report

Background

1. In September 2015, the Office of Surveillance Commissioners inspected the City Corporation’s process and procedure for ensuring compliance with RIPA. The inspector concluded that the City Corporation is keen to set and maintain high standards and has a sound RIPA structure, with good policies and procedures.
2. In January 2016, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a proposal discussed with the inspector to reduce the frequency of reporting of RIPA uses to this Committee.

Current Position- Authorisations

3. Since the last report to the Committee in January 2017 no requests under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 have been received by the RIPA Monitoring Officer/Co-ordinator.
4. However, the City Corporation has adopted RIPA-compliant processes in respect of covert surveillance that falls outside of the scope of RIPA, and one such request has been authorised since the last report to Committee.

Service area seeking authorisation	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Type/s of authorisation granted	Directed Surveillance
Purpose of authorisation	To investigate a potential breach by a City Corporation commercial tenant of their commercial lease.
Approved/Rejected	Approved
Date authorisation granted	26 June 2017
Date authorisation ends	26 September 2017
Notes	Authorisation cancelled on 10 August 2017 following completion of the investigation.

Conclusion

5. Following an inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in September 2015, and in accordance with the inspector's recommendation, this report sets out the Corporation's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Since January 2017, one authorisation to undertake non-RIPA directed surveillance has been sought and authorised in accordance with the Corporation's Policy and Procedure.

Appendices: None

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