

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO THE REGULATION OF
INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000**

To: **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

Meeting Date: **30th January 2018**

From: **Director of LGSS Law Ltd**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **For the Committee to consider a report of Council activity under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) for 2016 – 17**

Recommendation: **That the Committee note the report.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council's RIPA policy requires the Director of LGSS Law Ltd to provide Members with an annual update of the use by the Council of authorisations under RIPA for covert surveillance and their circumstances. The object of it is to achieve transparency and accountability for authorisations made.
- 1.2 In previous years the Council has been granted authorisations for directed surveillance, each arising from investigations by the Council's Trading Standards team, to target organised crime groups controlling the illegal manufacture/ import and ultimately the sale of counterfeit goods in Cambridgeshire. Such authorisations can be granted under RIPA.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 For the financial year 2016 – 17, the Council has not been granted any authorisations to carry out directed surveillance.

The Council has made no authorisations for the use of covert human intelligence sources.

The RIPA monitoring officer should be immediately informed of any RIPA authorisations undertaken.

- 2.2 The lack of authorisations this year reflects an ongoing cautious approach adopted by Trading Standards officers to the use of surveillance in recent years and in particular following changes to the RIPA regulations introduced in 2012 which restricted the scope of offences for which the Council may make use of RIPA authorisation.

2.3 RIPA awareness raising training

In June 2016 a number of Council staff and Members attended a RIPA awareness-raising course given by an external training provider.

2.4 RIPA policy

- 2.4.1 The RIPA Monitoring Officer will review and update the Council's policy, in line with the Commissioner's recommendations and to reflect the increasing availability of social media web sites for potential research or intelligence gathering.

Policy is publicised internally on an annual basis around the same time as the annual report. This will serve to remind officers of the possible uses for RIPA but also remind officers of the circumstances when a RIPA authorisation is required.

Source Documents	Location
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/23/contents