

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

*To:* **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **24<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

*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 2015 – 16**

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

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council's RIPA policy requires the LGSS Director of Law, Property & Governance 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.

## 2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 For the financial year 2015 – 16, one authorisation for directed surveillance has been granted. This arose from ongoing 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.

In 2014 - 15, directed surveillance operations, authorised under RIPA, enabled the Trading Standards Team to disrupt a number of counterfeit sellers, leading to the seizure of stock which was examined and confirmed to be counterfeit by Trade Mark representatives and confiscations of cash under the Proceeds of Crime legislation. A number of arrests were made by supporting Police detectives. Prosecutions are going through the courts in the coming months for the possession and sale of counterfeit goods against some of the targeted nominals.

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 limited number of authorisations reflects the cautious approach adopted by 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 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.

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	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/23/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/23/contents</a>