



Investigatory Powers
Commissioner's Office

PO Box 29105, London
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Mr Eifion Evans
Chief Executive
Ceredigion County Council
By email: Chiefexecutive@Ceredigion.gov.uk

17th August 2022

IPCO Inspection – Ceredigion County Council

Dear Mr Evans,

Your authority is due for its next programmed inspection of the use of covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources (CHIS) in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The last inspection was in 2019.

It has become apparent in recent years that for a variety of reasons, which include reduced resources, greater access to data-matching and the use of overt rather than covert law enforcement activity, authorities like your own have granted far fewer RIPA authorisations - some indeed have granted none at all during recent years.

The Investigatory Powers Commissioner, the Rt Hon. Sir Brian Leveson, is reviewing the long-term inspection regime for public authorities and it has been decided that in the short term a more flexible approach to the arrangements for inspections should be taken.

Could I therefore ask for the name of the 'senior responsible officer' or RIPA Co-ordinator and a contact telephone number in order that a discussion can take place to assess the most appropriate methodology for your council. The outcome may be that:

- no visit by an Inspector is necessary on this occasion,
- further information or documentation is required before a final decision about a visit is made, or
- a visit will be undertaken at some time in the future.

I am able to offer the following inspection dates of either 17, 18 or 19 October.

I have also attached to my cover email a data assurance letter for your attention and it would be helpful if I could discuss this with your RIPA SRO or RIPA Co-ordinator.

An Inspector will always visit if a request is made by an individual authority, and it goes without saying that these new arrangements will not alter the jurisdiction of IPCO to send an Inspector whenever we consider this to be necessary and appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Fletcher (by email)

IPCO Inspector

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