

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

DATE: 22 May 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

PURPOSE OF REPORT: Information

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: To undertake its 6 monthly review of the Council's use of RIPA

BACKGROUND:

A report was last brought to the Committee on the [23rd of November 2022](#) to present the revised RIPA Policy and an update following the IPCO inspection.

Monitoring by members:

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is responsible for reviewing the Council's use of RIPA.

The most recent update on RIPA activity was presented to this Committee on the [26th of September 2022](#).

Reports are usually presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on a 6 monthly basis.

CURRENT SITUATION:

1) RIPA Activity

Between the 4th of July 2022 and the 26th of April 2023, one application for directed surveillance was submitted and approved. The authorisation was approved by magistrates on the 13th of January 2023 and expired on the 13th of April 2023 (3 Months). A review was carried out on the 11th of April 2023 which concluded that the authorisation should not be renewed.

2) RIPA Policy

The revised RIPA Policy was noted by this Committee on the 23rd of November 2022 and has since been approved by Council at its meeting on the [26th of January 2023](#).

In addition to the amendments presented to this Committee on the 23rd of November 2022, Council also approved the addition of two further amendments to the section on the 'Procedure for Applying for a Directed Surveillance Authorisation to the RIPA Policy' (see Council report for details). These additional changes were approved in advance of the Council meeting by the Chair of this Committee.

3) Staff Update

On the 12th of May 2023 a RIPA Update from the SRO was published on Cerinet News for all Council staff. This informed staff that the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') PART II Directed Surveillance, Covert Human Intelligence Sources and Communications Data Corporate Policy & Procedures Document ('RIPA Policy') had been updated.

This update also provided an overview to staff of the RIPA forms and guidance available on CeriNet.

It is intended that 6-monthly messages will be circulated via Cerinet to ensure that any new staff are captured in order to raise awareness of the need to consider RIPA.

4) IPCO Newsletter

IPCO have published their quarterly newsletter for Spring 2023. It is available on the IPCO website at <https://www.ipco.org.uk/publications/correspondence/> and is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**.

Has an Integrated Impact No Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Summary: This report is provided for information only and does not represent a change in policy or strategy.

Long term:

Integration:

Collaboration:

Involvement:

Prevention:

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That the Committee notes the content of the report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To ensure the committee is kept up to date with the Council's use of RIPA and implementation of policies.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – IPCO Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2023

Contact Name: Elin Prysor
Designation: Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)
Date of Report: 27/04/2023
Acronyms: RIPA: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
SRO: Senior Responsible Officer
CHIS: Covert Human Intelligence Source
IPCO: Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office