

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

DATE: 4th March 2024

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 22nd of May 2023 (see 22nd of May report on: [RIPA report - 22.5.23](#)).

Monitoring by members

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

Reports are usually presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on a 6 monthly basis; however, this report is presented 9 months following the previous due to a lack of RIPA activity and a change in staffing.

CURRENT SITUATION:

1) RIPA Activity

There has been no RIPA activity by any service of the Council during the period between the 22 of May 2023 and 21st November 2023. Authorising Officers have confirmed that they have not considered any RIPA applications during this time. The Annual return to the IPCO reflects this.

2) Training

On 18th of April 2024, a full day training workshop has been arranged which will be carried out by an external provider to relevant Officers on RIPA. Training was last held on 28th of February 2022 for officers.

This training and previous sessions should ensure that relevant Officers have the necessary knowledge to comply with RIPA requirements.

3) Authorising Officers

The current Authorising Officers for Directed Surveillance, CHIS authorisations and non-RIPA authorisations are:

The Corporate Lead Officer: Policy, Performance and Public Protection;
The Corporate Lead Officer: People and organisation; and
The Statutory Director of Social Services & Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

The Chief Executive is the Authorising Officer to grant authorisations in respect of confidential or privileged information, relating to the covert filming of any Elected Member, Corporate Director or Corporate Lead Officer, or relating to surveillance of juveniles or vulnerable people.

The current Approved Rank Officer for Communications Data is:

Corporate Lead Officer: Policy, Performance & Public Protection

Alternative substitutes (if Approved Rank Officer at 1. above unavailable) are:
Corporate Lead Officer: People and Organisation; and
Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

4) IPCO Newsletter

IPCO have published their quarterly newsletter for winter 2023. It is available on the IPCO website at [IPCO Winter 2023 Newsletter](#) and is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:	Has an Integrated Impact No Assessment been completed? If not, please state why Summary: This report is provided for information only and does not represent a change in policy or strategy. Long term: Integration: Collaboration: Involvement: Prevention:
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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.

Designation: Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)

Date of Report:

26.02.2024

Acronyms:

RIPA: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

SRO: Senior Responsible Officer

CHIS: Covert Human Intelligence Source

IPCO: Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office