

Report to: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 11 March 2014
Report of: Head of Democracy and Governance
Title: RIPA

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To advise members on the use of RIPA during 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the report

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3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

3.1 The committee had a report in March 2014 informing them of the use the Council made of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act in 2013.

3.2 Since the changes in the law brought about by the Protection of Freedoms Act, which limited the reasons councils could use RIPA, the Council has not made any applications to the magistrates for approval for Directed Surveillance. Also the use of NAFN for communications data requests by the Council has decreased significantly since 2013 as only 2 authorisations were approved in the last year.

3.3 The Council did have an Office of Surveillance Commissioner inspection in October which was reported to Committee in December.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that that expenditure is contained within existing budgets.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the legal implications are contained within the body of the report.

4.3 **Equalities**

- 4.3.1 The Council is required to follow the law in undertaking covert surveillance activities.

4.4 **Potential Risks**

- 4.4.1 None apparent

4.5 **Staffing**

- 4.5.1 Using NAFN supports internal staff resources.

Background Papers

"No papers were used in the preparation of this report".

File Reference

- None