



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 8TH MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the numbers of covert surveillance operations undertaken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 To provide an update on the number of operations undertaken under RIPA.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council is under an obligation to comply with legislative requirements - this report helps to achieve that.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) sets out strict controls for public authorities wishing to carry out covert surveillance of individual members of the public as part of their exercise of their statutory functions. In addition to the Act, advice and guidance is found within the Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office.
- 4.2 The Authority has a corporate policy, which provides guidance on how surveillance should be used by the relevant officers.
- 4.3 Public Authorities undertaking covert surveillance of individual members of the public are subject to inspection by an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner or by a Surveillance Inspector (or in some cases both).
- 4.4 Members are advised that for the period 1st November, 2016 to 31st January, 2017 inclusive, one RIPA operation has been undertaken in respect of an investigation into the sale of alcohol to minors.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None, the report is for information only.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None. The report is for information only.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 None. Members are asked to note the information provided.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Author: Gail Williams, Interim Monitoring Officer (willige@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer