

Harborough District Council

Report to the Performance Scrutiny Panel 12 April 2023



Title:	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) RIPA
Status:	Public report
Key Decision:	No
Report Author:	Clare Pattinson, Director of Governance and Law & Interim Monitoring Officer
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Paul Dann
Appendices:	Not applicable

Executive Summary

This report provides details of the use of covert surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") by Harborough District Council.

Recommendations

To note that the Council has not utilised the powers afforded to it under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in the third quarter of this municipal year.

Reasons for Recommendations

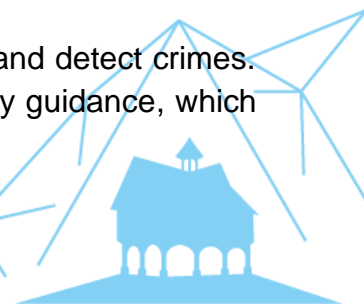
Council decided on 4th April 2011 that a scrutiny committee should exercise oversight of the RIPA policy and its usage. This report fulfils this notification requirement.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform members whether the Council has utilised its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in the preceding quarter.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has the ability to use investigatory techniques to prevent and detect crimes. Its use of such powers is particularised in a policy that reflects statutory guidance, which



was last updated in 2021. Oversight of the operation of this policy is provided by the Scrutiny panel.

- 2.2 The Council's use of these powers is monitored by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office ("IPCO"), which last conducted an inspection, remotely, in July 2020.
- 2.3 The Council is required to submit an annual statistical return on its use of these powers to the IPCO. The latest return to the IPCO was submitted in February 2023.

3. Details

- 3.1 The Panel is asked to note that the Council has not used its RIPA powers in the municipal year to date.

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1. Corporate Priorities

The use of investigatory techniques supports the Council's promotion of its Corporate Priorities.

4.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.3. Legal

The Council is able to utilise its RIPA powers for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime in the district, provided that it complies with the statutory provisions, statutory guidance and its own policies.

4.4. Policy

This report fulfils the Council's RIPA policy requirements and gives effect to the resolution of Council on 4 April 2011 that Scrutiny monitor the application of these techniques.

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

Not applicable

6. Alternative Options Considered

Not applicable

7. Background papers

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy
Statutory RIPA guidance