

**Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA)
Annual Report 2018-2019**

Purpose:	To report on the operation of the Authority's use of covert surveillance, conducted under the provisions of The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Legal, Finance.
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For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 allows local authorities to conduct covert surveillance activity in circumstances where it is for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder. It also allows local authorities to acquire communication data from Communication Providers.
- 1.2 The process must be in accordance with the Home Office's Code of Practice for Covert Surveillance and Code of Practice on Acquisition of Communication data and this report has been prepared in line with best practice.
- 1.3 This report will provide an overview to the Cabinet of the Authority's practices and activity regulated by RIPA.

2. Service Delivery

- 2.1 A list of authorised officers is shown in Appendix 1. (Table 3)
- 2.2 Table 1 below shows the types of surveillance permitted under RIPA for Local Authority use, comparing annual usage over the last 5 years.

TABLE 1 - Surveillance Permitted Under RIPA					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-2019
Directed	1	1	0	0	0
Interception of Communications	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition / Disclosure of Communications Data	0	0	0	0	0
Covert Human Intelligence Source	0	0	0	0	0

2.3 Process & Procedure

- 2.3.1 The Process & Procedure that Swansea Council must follow is available on: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/ripaoverview>. The policy is currently being reviewed with a view to any update or amendments being made in Jan 2020.

2.4 Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data

- 2.4.1 Since 8 February 2012, the City & County of Swansea (CCS) has subscribed to the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN)'s Single Point of Contact Services to acquire this information. Annual Returns are provided to the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office on a calendar year basis.

2.5 Surveillance Activity

- 2.5.1 Table 2 below shows the use of RIPA by services and its purpose within Swansea Council

TABLE 2 - Use of RIPA		
Directed Surveillance		
	0	
Covert Human Intelligence Source		
	0	
Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data		
	0	

- 2.5.2 CCS operates an extensive Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system to provide a safer environment for the community. The system is managed and developed in partnership with the South Wales Police. The use of CCTV is not covered by the same regulations as the surveillance reported on above as it is an overt not covert method of observation. A separate code of practice applies to the CCTV system and are public documents.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

3.1 There are no equality and engagement implications

4. Financial Implications

4.1 All costs incurred in dealing with RIPA have to be covered within existing budgets.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 As set out in the Report

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Authorised Officers

Appendix 1

TABLE 3 – RIPA Authorised Officers.	
Name	Department / Section
Lynda Anthony	Environmental Health
Peter Richards	Environment Health (Trading Standards)