

Annual RIPA Update

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	13 January 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Nosheen Dad
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No – not a decision-making report
Purpose of Report To brief Cabinet on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by the Council since the last report on use in December 2024.	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report be noted by members Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is for information only 	
Resource Implications: None.	
Date signed off by Executive Director & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 4th December Kevin Mulvaney – 5th December Samantha Lawton – 4th December

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: None
Public or private: Public
Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The role of Cabinet in Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 matters is to provide strategic oversight and to keep the Council's use of surveillance under review. This is the annual report on the Council's use of RIPA to Cabinet.
- 1.2 As a result of the view of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) that the use of RIPA should be considered more often than annually by Local Authorities the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee considers and monitors any RIPA related matters during the year as part of its quarterly audit reports. The process followed is that any reports are to be brought back to cabinet to be considered during the year as necessary. There were no incidents which required RIPA to be used in the period since the last report to Cabinet and therefore no reports were required to be brought back to Cabinet since the last annual report.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

- 2.1 The Council is subject to the requirements of RIPA, which sets out how and when a local authority can engage in covert surveillance. RIPA regulates three types of surveillance, these being directed surveillance, the use of covert human intelligence and the obtaining of communications data. The current policy was adopted in January 2019 when it was amended in line with the implementation of GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 2.2 Since the previous Cabinet report the annual returns to IPCO for 2024 has been completed. This is a report to the Commissioner on the Council's use of investigatory powers during 2024. The IPCO annual return for 2025 is due to be filed by the end of January 2026.
- 2.3 The RIPA policy has been reviewed and no updates have been made.
- 2.4 The number of RIPA authorisations granted since the last annual report is 0.
- 2.5 The Council is subject to an IPCO inspection every three years. The most recent inspection took place in the autumn of 2023 and there were no issues identified by the Regulator. The next inspection is due to take place in the summer of 2026 and it is anticipated that this will be a 'paper' inspection only.
- 2.6 Members are asked to note that training for officers at all levels is something that the regulator does take a keen interest in. Further to the previous report and the IPCO recommendations, training was sourced from an external training provider, headed by a former public sector expert barrister. The session was attended by officers from all teams whose operations may be impacted by RIPA. The Chief Executive was also given dedicated training by the RIPA legal officer that focused on his role in authorising the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources.

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

N/A

3.2 **Working with Partners**

West Yorkshire Police – this will most often be a formal request for access to CCTV information held by the Council and is provided on the basis of a formal written request.

West Yorkshire Trading Standards– this will usually be within the context of test purchase operations, typically involving sales of age restricted goods to minors.

3.3 Place Based Working

N/A

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

N/A

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

N/A

3.6 Financial Implications for the People Living or Working in Kirklees

N/A

3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

N/A

4. Consultees and their opinions

4.1 The following have been consulted on the contents of this report and have approved them:

4.1.1 The Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning, as Senior Responsible Officer.

4.1.2 The Head of Legal Services, as RIPA Monitoring Officer.

4.1.3 The Cabinet member for Corporate Services.

5. Next steps and timelines

5.1 To monitor training needs and address any needs that arise.

5.2 To continue to raise RIPA awareness, particularly with regards to the use of social media to obtain intelligence.

5.3 To ensure completion of the annual IPCO return, due by the end of January 2026.

5.4 To prepare for the 2026 IPCO inspection.

5.5 To continue to report RIPA usage to CGA on a quarterly basis.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

6.1 That members note the report.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

7.1 That members note the report.

8. **Contact officers**

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9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

2024 Annual RIPA report to Cabinet - [2024 RIPA Cabinet report](#)

Quarterly reports to Corporate Governance and Audit

10. **Service Director responsible**

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