

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

22 APRIL 2021

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

RIPA MONITORING REPORT

**INVESTIGATORY POWERS COMMISSIONERS OFFICE (IPCO) - ANNUAL STATISTICS
REGULATORY INVESTIGATIONS POWERS (RIPA) ACT 2000**

SUMMARY

This report provides members with statistics on the use of the RIPA Act 2000 in line with the 2020 annual return to the IPCO. The detail provided at **Appendix 1**, compares the 2020 annual return, to that of previous years.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the report.

DETAIL

1. The Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office is required by law to gather statistical data from all public authorities on their use of Investigatory Powers available to them under the relevant legislation. This information is used to inform the Commissioners Annual Report which is to be published later in 2021.
2. Changes in the legislation in 2012, alongside greater access to data matching, transparency, overt rather than covert law enforcement, has led to local authorities requesting and being granted, far fewer RIPA authorisations than before the legislative changes. This reflects the position here in Stockton.
3. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”) provides a statutory mechanism for authorising covert surveillance and the use of a “covert human intelligence source (CHIS). It seeks to ensure that any interference with an individual’s right under Article 8 of the European Convention is necessary and proportionate. In doing so, RIPA seeks to ensure that both the public interest and the human rights of individuals are suitably balanced.

FINDINGS

4. The Code of Practice indicates that elected members of a local authority should review the authority’s use of the Act; details of applications requested, granted and cancelled during the calendar year in 2020 are provided at **Appendix1**. This shows a comparison to the statistics from the two preceding years.

Next Steps

5. It is proposed that Members will continue to receive an annual report on RIPA arrangements and authorisations as part of a combined report with the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Report, in September each year.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

6. There is no requirement for an assessment in relation to this report.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. None as a direct result of this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. Existing management/operational systems and procedures are sufficient to control and minimise the risk to low to medium status.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

9. Organisational and operational effectiveness.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. None

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Appendix 1

RIPA STATISTICS

REF	TYPE	NUMBER	2020	2019	2018
CHIS	APPLICATIONS		1	1	0
CHIS	GRANTED		1	1	0
CHIS	RENEWALS		0	0	0
CHIS	JUVENILE		0	0	0
CHIS	GRANTED IN AN URGENT CASE		0	0	0
CHIS	CANCELLED		1	1	0
DS	APPLICATION		1	3	1
DS	GRANTED		1	3	1
DS	CANCELLED		1	3	1

KEY

CHIS – COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE
DS – DIRECTED SURVEILLANCE