

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	30 NOVEMBER 2023	6

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000: AUTHORISATIONS

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Councillors are obliged to review the use of covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources by the council at least quarterly. In the period to November 2023, there were no authorised operations.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Head of Governance

INFORMATION

1. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”) regulates covert investigations by a number of bodies, including local authorities. It was introduced to ensure that individuals' rights are protected while also ensuring that law enforcement and security agencies have the powers they need to do their job effectively.
2. Fylde Council is therefore included within RIPA framework with regard to the authorisation of both directed surveillance and of the use of covert human intelligence sources.
3. Directed surveillance includes the covert surveillance of an individual in circumstances where private information about that individual may be obtained. A covert human intelligence source (“CHIS”) is a person who, pretending to be someone that they are not, builds up a relationship of trust with another person for the purpose of obtaining information as part of an investigation.
4. Directed surveillance or use of a CHIS must be authorised by the chief executive or deputy chief executive and confirmed by a Justice of the Peace. All authorisations are recorded centrally by the Head of Governance.
5. This is the required report on the use of RIPA. The information in the table below is about authorisations granted by the council during the quarter concerned.

Period	Directed surveillance	CHIS	Total	Purpose
21 July 2023 – 30 November 2023	0	0	0	

Figures correct when report published. Officers will verbally update members if the figures have changed by the date of the meeting.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

Regulations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”) require councillors to consider a report on the use of RIPA at least quarterly.

FURTHER INFORMATION - Contact Ian Curtis on 01253 658506 or at ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk.