

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

St Albans City and District Council has been given powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to conduct authorised directed surveillances (DI) and use of human intelligence sources (CHIS) in certain circumstances in connection with the conduct of criminal investigations. All surveillances require authorisation by a senior Council officer and the exercise of the powers is subject to review. The Office of the Surveillance Commissioner (OSC) oversees the exercise by Councils of their surveillance powers.

During 2010 two directed surveillance authorisations were issued as follows:

6.1.2010 - Surveillance in order to obtain evidence of harassment and criminal damage towards residents of a property

7.1.2010 – Surveillance for the purpose of obtaining evidence of harassment towards residents of a property

During 2010 the list of officers empowered to grant authorisations was reviewed and updated.

The Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services provided statistical returns to the Surveillance Commissioner.

A report was submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 7 December 2010 informing members of proposed changes in legislation to Local Authorities' powers of surveillance under RIPA. The Government are conducting a RIPA review and a report on the outcome of the review is expected shortly. It is expected that the review will recommend that RIPA powers may only be exercised by Local Authorities if a Magistrate approves the surveillance. Legislation will be required to change the current authorisation procedures.

**M LOVELADY
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