

Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection Report		Agenda No: 11
Portfolio Area: An organisation that delivers value		
Report presented by: Lesley Day, Audit Insurance & Risk Manager		
Report prepared by: Lesley Day, Audit Insurance & Risk Manager		
Background Papers: Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection Report		Public Report
Options: N/a		Key Decision: No
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>On 12th November 2013, the Council received a visit by HH Norman Jones QC, Assistant Surveillance Commissioner to review our management arrangements of covert activities and to ensure that they are in accordance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.</p> <p>The conclusions of the inspection included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Braintree DC has little resort to covert surveillance and RIPA and is likely to reduce further as a result of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the RIPA (Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) amendment Order 2012. • There has been a lack of training for relevant officers in respect of the requirement for RIPA competence. • The requirement in the improvement of the structure of RIPA management which will result in greater oversight and quality control which should be exercised robustly. • Attention should be paid to ensuring that the Council has the capacity to handle CHIS if required to do so. <p>The inspection report included six recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a Central Record of Authorisations matrix in a spreadsheet. 2. Institute a refresher training programme for relevant officers commencing with provision by an external professional trainer. 3. Restructure the management arrangements of RIPA. 4. Ensure that the Council is equipped to manage CHIS (see recommendation 2). 5. Amend the Council's RIPA Corporate Guidelines. 6. Ensure that elected members receive quarterly reports outlining the Council's covert surveillance activities. 		

These recommendations have either been already implemented or are in the process of implementation.

Decision:

That Members note the conclusions and recommendations of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection Report.

Purpose of Decision:

To advise Members of the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection Report.

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail

Financial: N/a

Legal: N/a

Equalities/Diversity N/a

Customer Impact: N/a

Environment and Climate Change: N/a

Consultation/Community Engagement: N/a

Risks: N/a

Officer Contact: Lesley Day

Designation: Audit, Insurance & Risk Manager

Ext. No. 2821

E-mail: lesley.day@braintree.gov.uk