



**Rochford District  
Council**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Regulatory Investigative Powers Act (RIPA) Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director of Communities and Health</b>

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the use of RIPA over the past year and to allow for the review of the Council's RIPA policy.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 On 8 March 2011 Members of the Review Committee agreed to provide a strategic overview of the Council's use of RIPA powers in terms of reviewing the policy and considering quarterly and annual statistical reports on usage.
- 1.2 On 12 July 2011 the Committee agreed that in the interests of saving resources, it would consider statistics and review the Council's RIPA policy on an annual rather than quarterly basis.
- 1.3 Officers received RIPA training in January 2021 with further re-fresher training scheduled for 2024.

**1.4 ANNUAL STATISTICS ON THE COUNCIL'S USE OF RIPA POWERS**

**17 September 2021 – 17 September 2023**

Authorisation Date	Nature of Authorisation	Expiry date / Review Date(s)/ Cancellation Date
NIL		

1.5 Members will note that the Council has not exercised its use of RIPA since 8 February 2011.

**1.6 ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW**

1.7 A specialist RIPA training company undertook a review of our RIPA Policy and RIPA Social Media Policy in 2021 and as a result a revised RIPA Policy and RIPA Social Media Policy was approved by Members at a meeting of the Review Committee on 26 November 2021.

1.8 The Council last reviewed its RIPA Policy and RIPA Social Media Policy in December 2022 which was approved by members.

1.9 The RIPA Policy has been reviewed and there are no amendments to consider other than a change of officers which have been reflected and amended accordingly.

**2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 N/A

**3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 The improper or disproportionate use of RIPA powers could lead to adverse publicity in the media and serious reputational damage.

**4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

4.1 None

**5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Failure to comply with RIPA legislation may mean that covert investigatory evidence will not be accepted in court and there may be issues of privacy/human rights contraventions, as well as a claim for damages.

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**7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

**8.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no environmental issues arising from this report.

**9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report.

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Rochford Council RIPA Policy

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022