

Training and awareness

I note you have not conducted any training for at least 18 months, which, although not ideal, is understandable taking into account the ongoing pandemic. I do understand that training budgets are somewhat limited and bearing in mind Warwick District Council has not conducted any RIPA activity in recent times, RIPA training could easily slip down the list of priorities. That said, many RIPA errors occur because of the lack of knowledge and therefore some method of raising awareness across the organisation should be implemented. I note that you are considering the use of 'Meta Compliance' technology to ensure relevant staff increase their understanding of the legislation, which seems a good start.

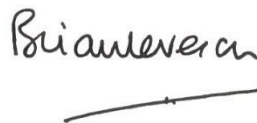
In conclusion, although your Council is a limited user of its surveillance powers, I take the opportunity here to reiterate to you the importance of regular, ongoing internal oversight of the actual or potential use of these powers. Your organisation appears to be in good hands through a knowledgeable RIPA Coordinator and a well-informed Senior Responsible Officer.

I note the ongoing consultation relating to the proposed merger with Stratford District Council which has a target date of April 2024 and I would appreciate being kept informed of any developments.

I hope that you find this letter to be helpful and constructive. My Office is available to you should you have any queries following the recent inspection, or at any point in the future. Contact details are provided at the foot of this letter.

I shall be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of the report within two months.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt. Hon. Sir Brian Leveson
The Investigatory Powers Commissioner