

Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA)

Annual report

1.0 HEADLINES

1.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) places a requirement on public authorities to authorise certain types of covert surveillance during planned investigations.

1.2 The Scottish Government Code of Practice on Covert Surveillance and Property Interference requires an annual report on the use of RIPSA to be reported to Members ('the code of practice')

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee consider and note the terms of the report.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 places a requirement on public authorities to authorise certain types of covert surveillance during planned investigations.

3.2 The Council has a policy and procedure in place that allows for appropriate authorisation of requests for covert surveillance to be considered/approved/refused and monitored through to completion.

3.2 Between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019 the Council undertook two covert surveillance operations in relation to Test Purchasing of tobacco (under-age sales). One in the Oban, Lorn and the Islands Area and the other in Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

3.3 Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 the Council undertook no covert surveillance operations.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Council has met the requirements of the code of practice by providing this report to Committee.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – None
- 5.2 Financial – None
- 5.3 Legal – None
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Fairer Duty Scotland – None
 - 5.5.1 Equalities – None
 - 5.5.2 Socio-Economic – None
 - 5.5.3 Islands – None
- 5.6 Risk – None
- 5.7 Customer Service - None

Douglas Hendry - Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support

27 January 2021

For further information contact: Iain Jackson, Governance, Risk and Safety Manager 01546 604188

APPENDICES

None