
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
Legal and Regulatory Support

Audit and Scrutiny Committee
12 March 2026

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

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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')

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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')

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 places a requirement on public authorities to authorise certain types of covert surveillance during planned investigations.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025 the Council undertook no covert surveillance operations.

5.0 CONCLUSION

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

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy – None

6.2 Financial – None

6.3 Legal – None

6.4 HR – None

6.5 Customer Service – None

6.6 Risk – None

6.7 Climate Change – None

6.8 Fairer Scotland Duty – None

6.9 Equalities - protected characteristics – None

6.10 Consumer Duty – None

6.11 Island Communities – None

6.12 Children's Rights and Wellbeing – None

Douglas Hendry

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19 January 2026

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APPENDICES

None