

**Teignbridge District Council  
Audit Committee  
17 December 2025  
Part 1**

**REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA)  
Annual Monitoring Report**

**Purpose of Report**

- To advise members of any instances in which the Council has used its powers under RIPA.

**Recommendation(s)**

**The Audit Committee is recommended to note the report**

**Financial Implications**

None.

**Legal Implications**

None. The Council is meeting its statutory duty to maintain RIPA procedures and report on its use of the powers.

**Risk Assessment**

The risks of breaching the RIPA are very low as the Council does not typically carry out investigations within the scope of RIPA.

**Environmental / Climate Change Implications**

None.

**Report Author**

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## **Executive Member**

Councillor John Parrott – Executive Member for Resources

### **1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) regulates the use and methods of surveillance carried out by public bodies. The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) is responsible for the oversight of covert surveillance by public authorities in the UK.
- 1.2 Local authorities, including Teignbridge, are permitted to use powers conveyed by RIPA to carry out covert surveillance where this is directed and not intrusive, and is in relation to an offence which is punishable with a custodial sentence of at least 6 months (or would be an offence under the Licensing Act i.e. sales of alcohol to underage children). A strict criteria and authorisation process is in place to ensure such surveillance is necessary and proportionate. This includes seeking judicial approval from a magistrate.
- 1.3 The Council is therefore very unlikely to make use of its RIPA powers, and consequently no RIPA applications have been made or authorised since our Housing Benefit investigation functions were transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions, pre-2014.
- 1.4 In accordance with the RIPA Code of Practice we must nevertheless, remain "RIPA ready" by maintaining internal procedures, should the situation change and the need for surveillance arise. These internal procedures also guard against the risk of officers straying into the territory of directed surveillance unintentionally.
- 1.5 The RIPA Code of Practice also requires us to report annually to members on the Council's RIPA activity.

**2. RECOMMENDATION and CONCLUSION**

Members are asked to note that the powers of surveillance available to the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 RIPA **have not been exercised** during the current reporting year 2025, (and during all years since 2014).

**4. GROUPS CONSULTED**

Not applicable.

**5. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION (CONFIRMATION OF DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN)**

Not applicable.