



**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000**

**PROCEDURAL GUIDE**

Adopted by Council: XXXX

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This policy document shall be readily available at the offices of Gloucester City Council ("the Council").
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Council complies with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).
- 1.3 This document provides guidance on the regulation of any covert surveillance that is carried out by Council officers. This includes the use of undercover officers, informants and private investigators and other agents of the Council.
- 1.4 Any covert surveillance will have to be authorised and conducted in accordance with RIPA, the statutory codes of practice and this Guide and shall only be for one of the purposes set out in this Guide and for a purpose which the Council is legally required or empowered to investigate as part of its functions.
- 1.5 Covert surveillance will only be used by the Council where it judges such use to be proportionate to the seriousness of the crime or matter being investigated, and the history and character of the individual(s) concerned.
- 1.6 Before requesting authorisation, Investigating Officers will have regard to this document and the statutory Codes of Practice issued under section 71 of RIPA. The Codes of Practice are available from the RIPA co-ordinator and direct from the Home Office at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/counter-terrorism/regulation-investigatory-powers/ripa-codes-of-practice/>
- 1.7 Authorising officers will have to consider whether it is necessary and proportionate for Investigating Officers to undertake covert surveillance and whether it is possible to obtain the evidence through other means.
- 1.8 Authorising Officers must give detailed consideration to the risk of collateral intrusion, i.e. the risk of intruding into the privacy of others while watching someone else. Steps will have to be taken to minimise this risk.
- 1.9 There should be no situation where an officer engages in covert surveillance without obtaining authorisation in accordance with the procedures set out in this document, the statutory Codes of Practice and from RIPA.
- 1.10 Any queries concerning the content of the document should be addressed to the RIPA co-ordinator.

## **2. THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

### **2.1 The background to RIPA**

RIPA provides a legal framework for the control and regulation of surveillance and information techniques which public authorities undertake as part of their duties. As was highlighted in the introduction to the Guide the need for such control arose as a result of the Human Rights Act 1998. Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights states that:-

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic wellbeing of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health and morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The right under Article 8 is a qualified right and public authorities can interfere with this right for the reasons given in paragraph 2 of Article 8. RIPA provides the legal framework for lawful interference.

## **2.2 The scope of this Guide**

This Guide intends to cover the surveillance and information gathering techniques which are most likely to be carried out by the Council.

Neither RIPA nor this Guide covers the use of any overt surveillance, general observation that forms part of the normal day to day duties of officers, the use of equipment to merely reinforce normal sensory perception, such as binoculars, or circumstances where members of the public who volunteer information to the Council.

RIPA does not normally cover the use of overt CCTV surveillance systems since members of the public are aware that such systems are in place.

If an Investigating Officer envisages using any CCTV system for surveillance they should contact the RIPA co-ordinator.

RIPA deals with a wide variety of surveillance types. Some of the other techniques that are covered by RIPA but will not or cannot be used by local authorities are listed below. These include:-

1. The interception of any communication such as postal, telephone or electronic communications without both the sender and receiver's permission;
2. The acquisition and disclosure of information to who has sent or received any postal, telephone or electronic communication; and
3. The covert use of surveillance equipment within any premises or vehicle, including business premises and vehicles with the intention of covertly gathering information about the occupant(s) of such premises or vehicles.

## **2.3 Consequences of not following RIPA**

Section 27 of RIPA provides that surveillance shall be lawful for all purposes if authorised and conducted in accordance with an authorisation granted under RIPA.

Lawful surveillance is exempted from civil liability

Although not obtaining authorisation does not make the authorisation unlawful per se, it does have some consequences:-

- (i) evidence that is gathered may be inadmissible in court;
- (ii) the subjects of surveillance can bring their own proceedings or defeat proceedings brought by the Council against them on human rights grounds, ie. we have infringed their rights under Article 8;
- (iii) if a challenge under Article 8 is successful the Council could face a claim for financial compensation;
- (iv) a complaint could be made to the Office of Surveillance Commissioners; and
- (v) the government has also introduced a system of tribunal. Any person who believes that their rights have been breached can have their complaint dealt with by way of a tribunal.

## 2.4 The Surveillance Commissioner

The government has appointed a Surveillance Commissioner to review the way in which public authorities implement the requirements of RIPA. The Commissioner has a wide range of powers of access and investigation. The Council will receive periodic visits from the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners. They will check to see if the Council is complying with RIPA.

It is important that the Council can show that it complies with this Guide and with the provisions of RIPA.

## 3. COVERT SURVEILLANCE

There are three categories of covert surveillance:-

1. Directed surveillance
2. Covert human intelligence sources; and
3. Intrusive surveillance (but nothing in this procedure permits the authorising of "Intrusive surveillance" as defined in RIPA (ie. in respect of anything taking place on residential premises or in a private vehicle, involving the presence of an investigator on those premises/vehicles or carried out through a surveillance device).

### 3.1 Directed Surveillance (DS)

3.1.1 The majority of covert surveillance that will be undertaken by the Council will fall under the heading of Directed Surveillance (DS).

3.1.2 DS is defined as surveillance which is covert, but not intrusive, and is undertaken:-

- (a) for the purpose of a specific investigation or operation;

- (b) in such a manner as it is likely to result in obtaining private information about a person (whether or not that person is the target of the investigation or operation); and
- (c) in a planned manner and not by way of an immediate response whereby it would not be reasonably practicable to obtain an authorisation prior to the surveillance being carried out.

3.1.3 It is irrelevant where the subject of the DS is being observed.

3.1.4 If you intend to instruct an agent to carry out the DS the agent must complete and sign the form marked “agent’s agreement form” contained in Appendix C. The agent will be subject to RIPA in the same way as any employee of the Council would be.

3.1.5 The flow chart in Appendix D gives guidance on when authorisation might be needed.

## 3.2 **Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS)**

3.2.1 This involves the establishment or maintenance of a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of obtaining or disclosing private information. A CHIS is a person who:-

- (a) s/he establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of facilitating the doing of anything falling within paragraph (b) or (c);
- (b) he covertly uses such a relationship to obtain information or to provide access to any information to another person; or
- (c) he covertly discloses information obtained by the use of such a relationship or as a consequence of the existence of such a relationship.

3.2.2 A relationship is established or maintained for a covert purpose if and only if it is conducted in a manner that is calculated to ensure that one of the parties to the relationship is unaware of the purpose.

3.2.3 A relationship is used covertly and information obtained is disclosed covertly, if and only if the relationship is used or the information is disclosed in a manner that is calculated to ensure that one of the parties to the relationship is unaware of the use or disclosure in question.

3.2.4 Covert Human Intelligence Sources may only be authorised if the following arrangements are in place:

- that there will at all times be an officer within the local authority who will have day to day responsibility for dealing with the source on behalf of the authority, and for the source’s security and welfare;
- that there will at all times be another officer within the local authority who will have general oversight of the use made of the source;

- that there will at all times be an officer within the local authority who has responsibility for maintaining a record of the use made of the source; and
- that the records relating to the source maintained by the local authority will always contain particulars of all matters specified by the Secretary of State in Regulations.

- 3.2.5 Legal advice should always be sought where any matters for investigation may involve the use of other enforcement agencies, including the police.
- 3.2.6 Special consideration must be given to the use of vulnerable individuals for CHIS. A 'vulnerable individual' is a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself, or unable to protect himself against significant harm or exploitation. Any individual of this description, or a juvenile as defined below, should only be authorised to act as a source in the most exceptional circumstances and only then when authorised by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) (or, in his absence, by the person acting as Head of Paid Service).
- 3.2.7 Before an Investigating Officer undertakes any surveillance involving a vulnerable individual they **must obtain legal advice** and consult the RIPA co-ordinator concerning any clarification on the administrative process. Also in these cases, the Head of Paid Service (or in his absence, by the person acting as Head of Paid Service) must authorise the use of a vulnerable individual as a CHIS.
- 3.2.8 Special safeguards also apply to the use or conduct of juvenile sources; that is sources under the age of 18 years. On no occasion should the use or conduct of a source under 16 years of age be authorised to give information against his parents or any person who has parental responsibility for him.
- 3.2.9 In other cases, authorisations should not be granted unless the special provisions contained within The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Juveniles) Order 2000; SI No. 2793 are satisfied. Authorisations for juvenile sources should be granted by the Head of Paid Service (or in his absence, by the person acting as Head of Paid Service). Before an Investigating Officer undertakes any surveillance involving a juvenile they must consult the RIPA co-ordinator.
- 3.2.10 If an Investigating Officer intends to instruct an agent to carry out the CHIS the agent must complete and sign the form marked "agent's agreement form" contained in Appendix C. The agent will be subject to RIPA in the same way as any employee of the Council would be.
- 3.2.11 The flow chart in Appendix D gives guidance on when authorisation might be needed.
- 3.2.12 Any Investigating Officer considering the use of a CHIS must seek advice from the RIPA Co-ordinator before taking any steps in relation to a CHIS.

### **3.3 Intrusive surveillance**

#### **3.3.1 Intrusive surveillance is defined as covert surveillance that:-**

- (a) is carried out in relation to anything taking place on any residential premises or in any private vehicle; and
- (b) involves the presence of any individual on the premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by means of a surveillance device.
- (c) if the device is not located on the premises or in the vehicle, it is not intrusive surveillance unless the device consistently provides information of the same quality and detail as might be expected to be obtained from a device actually present on the premises or in the vehicle.

#### **3.3.2 Local authorities are not authorised to conduct intrusive surveillance.**

### **4. Procedure for Obtaining Authorisations**

#### **4.1 The Senior Responsible Officer:-**

##### **Role:**

##### **4.1.1 The Head of Paid Service is designated the Council's Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) with responsibilities for:-**

- (a) ensuring the integrity of the Council's RIPA processes;
- (b) ensuring compliance with RIPA legislation and the Home Office Codes of Practice;
- (c) engaging with the OSC when its inspector conducts an inspection;
- (d) overseeing the implementation of any post-inspection plans;
- (e) ensuring that all Authorising Officers are of an appropriate standard in light of any recommendations made by the OSC inspection reports;
- (f) ensuring that concerns are addressed, where OSC inspection reports highlight concerns about the standards of Authorising Officers.

#### **4.2 Authorising Officers**

##### **Role:**

Authorising Officers can authorise, review and cancel directed surveillance, and can authorise, review and cancel the employment of a juvenile or vulnerable CHIS, or the acquisition of confidential information.

##### **4.2.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources) Order 2010 prescribes that for local authorities the Authorising Officer shall be a Director, Head of Service, Service Manager or**

equivalent as distinct from the officer responsible for the conduct of an investigation.

4.2.2 Officers of a lower rank **cannot** grant authorisations.

4.2.3 A designated Authorising Officer must qualify **both** by rank and by competence. Officers who wish to be designated must have been trained to an appropriate level so as to have an understanding of the Act and the requirements that must be satisfied before an authorisation can be granted.

Appendix A sets out the officers within the Council who can grant authorisations.

4.2.4 Authorisations must be given in writing by the Authorising Officer. .

4.2.5 Authorising Officers are also responsible for carrying out regular reviews of applications which they have authorised and also for the cancellation of authorisations.

#### 4.3 **Investigating Officers - What they need to do before applying for authorisation**

4.3.1 Investigating Officers should think about the need to undertake DS or CHIS before they seek authorisation. Investigating Officers need to consider whether they can obtain the information by using techniques other than covert surveillance. There is nothing that prevents an Investigating Officer discussing the issue of surveillance beforehand. Any comments by a supervisor should be entered into the application for authorisation.

4.3.2 The Codes of Practice do however advise that Authorising Officers should not be directly responsible for authorising investigations or operations in which they are directly involved although it is recognised that this may sometimes be unavoidable.

4.3.3 If an Investigating Officer intends to carry out DS or use CHIS they should complete and submit an Application for Directed Surveillance form which is marked Application for Directed Surveillance or an Application for the use of CHIS which is marked Application for CHIS to an Authorising Officer. An electronic version of the most up-to-date forms and Codes of Practice are available from the RIPA Co-ordinator, via the RIPA folder within SmartAccess or from the Home Office website address in Appendix B.

4.3.4 Appendix D shows the steps which are required as part of the authorisation process.

4.3.5 The person seeking the authorisation should obtain a Unique Reference Number from the RIPA Co-ordinator and complete parts 1 and 2 of the form having regard to the guidance given in this Guide and the statutory Codes of Practice.

4.3.6 The form should then be submitted to the Authorising Officer for authorisation.

#### 4.4 Authorising Officers - What they need to do before authorising surveillance

- 4.4.1 Before giving authorisation an Authorising Officer **must** be satisfied that the reason for the request is the permitted reason under the Act and permitted under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources) Order 2010, i.e.

in the case of directed surveillance, for the purpose of the prevention and detection of conduct which constitutes one or more criminal offences that are:

- (i) punishable by a maximum term of at least 6 months imprisonment; or
- (ii) are offences under:
  - a. Section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003 (sale of alcohol to children)
  - b. Section 147 of the Licensing Act 2003 (allowing the sale of alcohol to children)
  - c. Section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 (persistently selling alcohol to children); or
  - d. Section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2003 (sale of tobacco etc. to persons under eighteen); and

or

in the case of CHIS, for the purpose of the prevention and detection of crime or for the preventing of disorder;

and

- the desired result of the covert surveillance cannot reasonably be achieved by other means; and
- the risks of collateral intrusion have been properly considered, and the reason for the surveillance is balanced proportionately against the risk of collateral intrusion; and
- there must also be consideration given to the possibility of collecting confidential personal information. If there is a possibility of collecting personal information the matter should be passed to the Senior Responsible Officer for consideration.

- 4.4.2 An Authorising Officer **must** also be satisfied that the surveillance in each case is **necessary** and **proportionate**.

This is defined as:-

##### **Necessity**

- Obtaining an authorisation under the 2000 Act will only ensure that there is a justifiable interference with an individual's Article 8 rights if it is necessary and proportionate for these activities to take place. The 2000 Act first requires that the person granting an authorisation for directed surveillance believe that the authorisation is necessary in the circumstances of the

particular case for the statutory ground in section 28(3)(b) of the 2000 Act being *“for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder”* .

### **Proportionality**

- The following elements of proportionality should be considered:
  - i) balancing the size and scope of the proposed activity against the gravity and extent of the perceived crime or offence;
  - ii) explaining how and why the methods to be adopted will cause the least possible intrusion on the subject and others;
  - iii) considering whether the activity is an appropriate use of the legislation and a reasonable way, having considered all reasonable alternatives, of obtaining the necessary result;
  - iv) evidencing as far as reasonably practicable, what other methods have been considered and why they were not implemented.

When the Authorising Officer has considered if the surveillance is necessary and proportionate they must complete the relevant section of the form explaining why in his/her opinion the surveillance is necessary and proportionate.

## **4.5 Judicial Approval**

- 4.5.1 From 1 November 2012, any DS or CHIS authorisation granted by an Authorising Officer **does not** take effect until an order has been made by a Justice of the Peace (“Magistrate”) approving the grant of the authorisation.
- 4.5.2 When an authorisation has been granted by an Authorising Officer, an Officer authorised by the Council to appear on its behalf in Magistrates’ Court proceedings (the “Applicant”) needs to make an application to the Magistrates’ Court for judicial approval of the authorisation before the authorisation can take effect (i.e. before lawful surveillance can begin).
- 4.5.3 Under the Criminal Procedure Rules 2012, the Applicant must:
  - (i) apply in writing and serve the application on the court officer;
  - (ii) attach the authorisation which the Applicant wants the court to approve (NB the original authorisation should be shown to and a copy provided to, the Magistrate. The original authorisation should be retained by the Investigating Officer) ;
  - (iii) attach such other material (if any) on which the Applicant is relying to satisfy the court that the authorisation was necessary for the purposes of the prevention and detection of crime and was proportionate (as set out in paragraph 4.4.1) and that the authorisation was granted by a person designated for the purposes of RIPA .

The Applicant should also provide the Magistrate with two copies of a partially completed judicial application/order to assist the process.

4.5.4 The relevant Magistrate may approve the granting of a DS authorisation if, and only if, they are satisfied that:

- (i) at the time of the grant (i.e. when approval was given by the Authorising Officer):
  - a. there were reasonable grounds for believing that the authorisation was necessary for the purposes of the prevention and detection of crime and was proportionate (as set out in paragraph 4.4.1); and
  - b. that the authorisation was granted by a person designated for the purposes of authorising DS; and
- (ii) at the time when the relevant Magistrate is considering the matter, there remain reasonable grounds for believing that the authorisation is necessary and proportionate (as set out in paragraph 4.4.1)

4.5.5 The relevant Magistrate may approve the granting of a CHIS authorisation if, and only if, they are satisfied that:

- (i) at the time of the grant (i.e. when approval was given by the Head of Paid Service):
  - a. there were reasonable grounds for believing that the authorisation was necessary for the purposes of the prevention and detection of crime or disorder and was proportionate (as set out in paragraph 4.4.1) and that the arrangements set out in paragraph 3.2.3, together with any other prescribed requirements, were in place; and
  - b. that the authorisation was granted by a person designated for the purposes of authorising CHIS, and
- (ii) at the time when the relevant Justice of the Peace is considering the matter, there remain reasonable grounds for believing that the authorisation is necessary and proportionate (as set out in paragraph 4.4.1)

4.5.6 Where an application is approved by a Magistrate, the Investigating Officer should:

- (i) retain a copy of the judicial application/order that has been signed by the Magistrate;
- (ii) retain the original authorisation; and
- (iii) notify the RIPA Co-Ordinator of the JP approval for the authorisation and provide a copy of the authorisation, application and Order for the RIPA records.

4.5.7 Where an application is not approved by a Magistrate, the authorisation does not take effect and the surveillance proposed in the authorisation should not be carried out.

4.5.8 Where an application is refused by a Magistrate, the Magistrate may make an order quashing the authorisation.

## **5. Duration, Review, Renewal and Cancellation of Authorisations**

### **5.1 Duration**

5.1.1 DS authorisations will cease to have effect after three months from the date of judicial approval unless renewed (also subject to judicial approval) or cancelled.

5.1.2 Authorisations should be given for the maximum duration (i.e. three months) but reviewed on a regular basis and formally cancelled when no longer needed.

5.1.3 CHIS authorisations will cease to have effect after twelve months from the date of approval.

5.1.4 Investigating Officers should indicate within the application the period of time that they estimate is required to carry out the surveillance, this will be proportionate to the objectives of the investigation and give due consideration to collateral intrusion.

5.1.5 From 1 November 2012, urgent verbal authorisations are no longer available.

5.1.6 For CHIS authorisations, legal advice must be sought, particularly those that involve the use of juveniles (for which the duration of such an authorisation is one month instead of twelve months).

5.17 It is the responsibility of the Investigating Officer to make sure that the authorisation is still valid when they undertake surveillance.

### **5.2 Review**

5.2.1 An Investigating Officer must carry out a regular review of authorisations. If an authorisation is no longer required it **must** be cancelled.

5.2.2 The results of any review must be included on the review form (see forms "Review of Directed Surveillance" and "Review of CHIS" available from the RIPA Co-ordinator, via SmartAccess or the Home Office website address given in Appendix B).

5.2.3 The Authorising Officer also has a duty to review authorisations that have been granted when it is necessary or practicable to do so. Particular attention should be given to authorisations involving collateral intrusion or confidential material.

5.2.4 The Authorising Officer should keep a copy of the review form and a copy should be given to the Investigating Officer. A copy of the review form must also be sent to the RIPA Co-ordinator.

### **5.3 Renewals**

- 5.3.1 An Investigating Officer can ask for and an Authorising Officer can grant, subject to judicial approval, a renewal of an authorisation before it would cease to have effect.
- 5.3.2 An application for a renewal must not be made more than seven days before the authorisation is due to expire.
- 5.3.3 A renewal can last for up to three months, effective from the date that the previous authorisation would cease to have effect.
- 5.3.4 An Authorising Officer can grant more than one renewal, subject to judicial approval, as long as the request for authorisation still meets the requirements for authorisation. An Authorising Officer must still consider all of the issues that are required for a first application before a renewal can be granted.
- 5.3.5 If the reason for requiring authorisation has changed from its original purpose it will not be appropriate to treat the application as a renewal. The original authorisation should be cancelled and a new authorisation should be sought, granted by an Authorising Officer and approved by a Magistrate.
- 5.3.6 An application for a renewal must be completed on the appropriate form (see forms “Renewal of Directed Surveillance” and “Renewal of CHIS” available from the RIPA Co-ordinator, via SmartAccess or the Home Office website address given in Appendix B).
- 5.3.7 The Authorising Officer should keep a copy of the renewal and a copy should be given to the Investigating Officer. A copy of the renewal form, judicial application and order must also be sent to the RIPA Co-ordinator.

### **5.4 Cancellations**

- 5.4.1 If the reason for requiring the authorisation no longer exists, the authorisation must be cancelled and in any event as soon as the operation for which an authorisation was sought ceases to be necessary or proportionate. This applies to both original applications and renewals (see forms “Cancellation of Directed Surveillance” and “Cancellation of CHIS” available from the RIPA Co-ordinator, via SmartAccess or the Home Office website address given in Appendix B).
- 5.4.2 Authorisations must also be cancelled if the surveillance has been carried out and the original aim has been achieved. Authorising Officers will ensure that authorisations are set to expire at the end of the appropriate statutory period.
- 5.4.3 It is the responsibility of the Investigating Officer to monitor their authorisations and seek cancellation of them where appropriate.
- 5.4.4 The Authorising Officer should keep a copy of the cancellation form and a copy should be given to the Investigating Officer. A copy of the cancellation form must also be sent to the RIPA Co-ordinator.

## **5.5 Review of Policy and Procedure**

- (i) The Cabinet will receive bi-annual reports on the use of RIPA.
- (ii) The Cabinet will review the use of RIPA and report any recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council on an annual basis.

## **6. The RIPA Co-ordinator**

### **6.1 Role**

The RIPA Co-ordinator will:-

- (i) provide a Unique Reference Number for each authorisation sought;
- (ii) keep copies of the forms for a period of at least three years;
- (iii) keep a register of all of the authorisations, reviews, renewals and cancellations, including authorisations granted by other public authorities relating to joint surveillance by the Council and that other public authority;
- (iv) provide administrative support and guidance on the processes involved;
- (v) monitor the authorisations, reviews, renewals and cancellations so as to ensure consistency throughout the Council;
- (vi) monitor each department's compliance and act on any cases of non-compliance;
- (vii) provide training and further guidance on and awareness of RIPA and the provisions of this Guide; and
- (viii) review the contents of the Guide, in consultation with Investigating Officers, Authorising Officers and the Senior Responsible Officer.

All original applications for authorisations and renewals including those that have been refused must be passed to the RIPA Co-ordinator as soon as possible after their completion with copies retained by the Authorising Officer and the Investigating Officer.

The RIPA Co-ordinator shall be the Head of Legal and Policy Development.

All cancellations must also be passed to the RIPA Co-ordinator.

### **6.2 It is however the responsibility of the Investigating Officer, the Authorising Officers and the Senior Responsible Officer to ensure that:-**

- (i) authorisations are only sought and given where appropriate;
- (ii) authorisations are only sought and renewed where appropriate;

- (iii) authorisations are reviewed regularly;
- (iv) authorisations are cancelled where appropriate; and
- (v) they act in accordance with the provisions of RIPA.

## **7. Legal Advice**

Legal Services will provide legal advice to staff making, renewing or cancelling authorisations, including making applications for judicial approval.

## **8. Joint Investigations**

Where joint investigations are carried out with other agencies, such as the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) or the Police, the RIPA Co-ordinator should be notified of the joint investigation and provided with a copy of any RIPA authorisation granted by another agency in respect of a joint investigation involving Council officers

## **Officers**

The following officers are the Senior Authorising Officer and the Authorising Officers for the purposes of RIPA.

### **Senior Responsible Officer**

Head of Paid Service – Martin Shields

### **Authorising Officers – Directed Surveillance**

Corporate Director of Resources

Head of Neighbourhood Services

Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

### **Authorising Officer – CHIS**

Head of Paid Service – Martin Shields

## **Authorisation Forms**

The authorisation, review and cancellation forms will be the forms that are current on the home page of

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ripa-forms--2>

**Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000**

**Gloucester City Council**

**Agent's Agreement Form**

I ..... (insert Agent's name) of  
..... (address) confirm that in  
relation to .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
..... (name or description of  
the surveillance) I agree to comply with the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000,  
with all statutory provisions, statutory Codes of Practice and with Gloucester City Council's  
Procedural Guide when undertaking any and all surveillance authorised by Gloucester City  
Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Council's Authorisation Form reference number  
..... dated the ..... and I agree not to  
carry out any surveillance that is contrary to this authorisation.

Signed .....

Dated .....

### Will Directed Surveillance authorisation be required?

Are you carrying out the surveillance in a way that people are going to be unaware that it is being carried out?	No →	Surveillance is unlikely to be covert and therefore authorisation will not be required
↓ Yes		
Is the surveillance part of a specific investigation?	No →	Unlikely to require authorisation
↓ Yes		
Are you going to be collecting information about a person's private or family life?	No →	Unlikely to require authorisation
↓ Yes		↓ No
Will the surveillance require the presence of an individual or use a surveillance device on a person's premises or private vehicle?	Yes →	This may fall within the definition of intrusive surveillance
↓ No		
You will need to obtain authorisation		Seek advice from RIPA co-ordinator

## Will Covert Human Intelligence Sources authorisation be required?

Are you carrying out the surveillance in a way that people are going to be unaware that it is being carried out?	No →	It is unlikely that the CHIS is covert and authorisation will be required
↓ Yes		
Are you going to establish a personal or other relationship with someone in order to obtain, provide access to, or disclose information as part of that relationship?	No →	Unlikely to require authorisation
↓ Yes		
Are you going to be using a vulnerable person or persons under 18 years old?	Yes →	Speak to the RIPA co-ordinator
↓ No		
Is the person establishing a relationship with employee or agent?		
↓ Yes		
Authorisation for CHIS should be obtained and an agent's agreement form should be completed when an agent is used		