

12th March 2025

Cabinet Member:	Portfolio:
Cllr. Philip Hughes	Organisation and Workforce

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

- To note the level of covert surveillance activity undertaken by the Council in 2024
- To approve to Councils RIPA procedures for 2025

REASONS:

- There is a requirement that elected members exercise oversight in respect of the Council's covert surveillance activity

Directorate: Chief Executives Name of Head of Service: Stephen P Murphy Report Author: Robert Edgecombe	Designations: Head of Law Governance and Civil Services Legal Services Manager	Tel Nos. 01267 224018 E Mail Addresses: RJEdgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

N/A

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

N/A

DECISION MADE:

Signed: _____ **DATE:** _____
CABINET MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR ORGANISATION AND
WORKFORCE
12/03/2025**

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT

Purpose

This report gives an update on the level of covert surveillance activity by the Council and reviews the procedures that have been adopted in respect of this activity.

Background and Context

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) provides a legal framework by which the Council can seek authorisation to carry out covert surveillance in certain limited circumstances.

The Council did not authorise the conduct any covert surveillance in 2024 and indeed has not done so since 2015. There have been no reports of the Council conducting unauthorised covert surveillance during this period.

During the year the Council's Legal Services Manager received 5 queries/requests for advice in relation to Covert Surveillance. In all cases covert surveillance authorisation was unnecessary and advice was given accordingly.

Even so the Council is required to report annually regarding its use of these powers and to keep its procedures under review. There is also a need to ensure relevant staff are suitably trained and we are working with another local authority to arrange an online training session for relevant officers this year.

There have been no changes made to the attached procedure document since it was last reviewed

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Steve P Murphy**

Head of Law, Governance and Civil Services

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

There is a requirement that officers report to the relevant cabinet member annually

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Steve P. Murphy Head of Law, Governance and Civil Services

1. Local Member(s) N/A

2. Community / Town Council N/A

3. Relevant Partners N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Depart file	CCIP-009	County Hall