

OFFICIAL

# IPCO

Authorisation & Oversight

PO Box 29105, London  
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Ms Lorraine Gore  
Chief Executive  
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk  
By email

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Dear Chief Executive,

Thank you for providing IPCO with your response to the matters identified at points 1 to 10 of my Inspector's letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024. I am also grateful for the subsequent engagement with my Inspector by Mr Jamie Hay – Senior Internal Auditor, who provided further required information.

I am satisfied that your reply provides your assurance that ongoing compliance with RIPA 2000 and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 will be maintained. As such, your Council will not require further inspection this year.

I note that training has been completed, and your RIPA policy has been updated.

I further note the use of a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) to investigate illegal taxi activity. My Inspector reviewed this CHIS application and authorisation (URN BCKLWN-C00001) which he found to have been well formed, and with appropriate attention paid to the associated risks when deploying the CHIS.

I am aware that you have safeguards in place to ensure that only those eligible, can utilise the internet for investigations. This is an expanding and developing area and one which will no doubt produce good dividends. However, the use of the internet needs to be audited by your managers to ensure the activity undertaken, once permitted by your ICT Department, does not stray into the territory whereby a RIPA authorisation would need to be considered.

I would ask that you ensure that the key compliance issues continue to receive the necessary internal governance and oversight through yourself and your Senior Responsible Officer: policy refreshes; annual updates to your Elected Members; ongoing training and awareness raising; internal compliance monitoring by lead managers within their business areas; and the retention, review and destruction (RRD) of any product obtained through the use of covert powers (Records and Product Management in accordance with the Safeguards Chapters of the relevant Codes of Practice).

Your Council will be due its next inspection in 2027, but please do not hesitate to contact my Office if IPCO can be of assistance in the intervening period.

Yours sincerely,

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IPCOOffice

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*Brian Averan*

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**The Rt. Hon. Sir Brian Leveson**  
The Investigatory Powers Commissioner