



Investigatory Powers
Commissioner's Office

PO Box 29105, London
SW1V 1ZU

Mr Garry Payne
Chief Executive
Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde
FY6 7PU

15th April 2019

Dear Mr Payne,

Inspection of Wyre Council

Your Council was recently subject of a desktop-based documentary inspection by one of my Inspectors, Graham Wright. I am grateful to you for facilitating this through your Senior Solicitor Mary Grimshaw who has provided the relevant materials and also spoke to my Inspector to provide further details on 10th April 2019.

The information you have provided has demonstrated a level of compliance that removes, for the present, the requirement for a physical inspection. It is anticipated that this will be undertaken when your authority's next three-yearly inspection is due.

Your Council was found to have a clear and comprehensive RIPA policy, regular refresher training for key officers, and a very experienced and conscientious 'senior responsible officer'. It is also noted that no authorisations have been granted for over five years.

I take the opportunity here to remind you of the importance of regular, ongoing internal oversight of the actual or potential use of these powers, which should be managed through your 'senior responsible officer', Mary Grimshaw. Officers need to maintain their levels of training lest, however remote a possibility it may appear, the powers need to be used. I also draw attention to the increasing usefulness and accessibility of social media which can offer initial investigative leads and assist with your enforcement or other responsibilities, but it is important to ensure that such resources as these are used in a controlled, auditable, and well understood manner. The Home Office Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice (August 2018) provides some helpful advice on this point.

My Office is available to you should you have any queries following the recent desktop inspection, or at any point in the future. Contact details are provided at the foot of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Fulford

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Fulford
The Investigatory Powers Commissioner