



Chief  
Surveillance  
Commissioner

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

20<sup>th</sup> November 2014

*Dear M/s Hunter,*

**Covert Surveillance**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014, one of my Inspectors, Mr Andrew Mackian, visited your Council on my behalf to review your management of covert activities. I am grateful to you for the facilities afforded for the inspection.

I enclose a copy of Mr Mackian's report which I endorse. You have an excellent corporate policy for using RIPA and effective oversight managed by your RIPA Monitoring Officer M/s Fiona McMillan. Covert tactics are used as a last resort and receive careful scrutiny by your Legal Services. It is to be hoped that there is no fall in standards following the departure of your Fraud Manager Chris Freeman who has played an important role in relation to RIPA. Your clear personal involvement gives confidence that RIPA compliance will remain a clear priority.

The one recommendation is that a single central inventory for technical equipment be put in place.

I shall be glad to learn that your Council accepts the recommendation and will see that it is implemented.

One of the main functions of review is to enable public authorities to improve their understanding and conduct of covert activities. I hope your Council finds this process constructive. Please let this Office know if it can help at any time.

*Yours sincerely,  
Christopher Rose*

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