

Council, Tuesday 4 November 2008

Amendment in the name of Cllr Alan Schneiderman to motion in the name of Cllr Maureen Braun

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.

RIPA

Delete all and replace with:

Council is concerned by the extension in 2003 of Regulations Investigation Powers Act 2003 (RIPA), which gives 792 organisations including access to information on communications data, as opposed to 8 previously.

While Council believes that Public Bodies should have the ability to investigate those suspected of fraud or malpractice, Council is most concerned that surveillance is being used in some other areas to investigate and pursue trivial matters.

In contrast, Council applauds LBB for its approach in using these and other powers sparingly, and restricting its use of surveillance to tackle crime.

Additionally, Council therefore welcomes the letter by former LGA Chairman, Sir Simon Milton, condemning the practice of invoking RIPA for minor matters and advising Councils not to use such powers in these cases.

Accordingly, Council resolves to support LBB's approach of using the powers of surveillance sparingly, focusing upon the need to tackle crime, and of not using those powers to investigate minor infringements.

Council asks that the relevant Scrutiny Committee reviews use of RIPA by the council on an annual basis as suggested by Sir Simon Milton in his letter.