



Investigatory Powers
Commissioner's Office

PO Box 29105, London
SW1V 1ZU

Ms. Carolyn Downs
Chief Executive
Brent Council
Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley
HA9 0FJ
Carolyn.downs@brent.gov.uk

2 April 2020

Dear Ms. Downs,

Inspection of Brent Council

Your Council was recently the subject of a telephone and desktop-based inspection by one of my Inspectors, Graham McCrory, MBE. This has been facilitated through your Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), Director of Legal, Human Resources, Audit and Investigations, Ms. Debra Norman and Ms. Bianca Robinson, Senior Constitutional and Governance Lawyer, who were interviewed over the phone and provided the supporting documentation requested by the Inspector.

The information provided has demonstrated a level of compliance that removes, for the present, the requirement for a physical inspection.

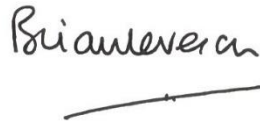
Your Council was last inspected in November 2016 by Mr McCrory who found, then, a good compliance regime with no recommendations for improvement required. I am pleased to note that this inspection has found similarly good levels of compliance. My Inspector noted the regular updating of the Council's RIPA policy document; a robust application process for the use of social media investigations; and clear processes to comply with *R v Sutherland* conditions when the use of CCTV equipment is required by external agencies.

In conclusion, it must be emphasised that although your Council has not exercised its RIPA powers since the last inspection, it is vital that the relevant staff are appropriately trained should the need arise to authorise covert activity. I note that your Council undertakes annual training events conducted by an external trainer, and this is recognised as good practice. However, it is also important that officers engaged in investigatory or enforcement areas where RIPA considerations are not so immediately apparent (for example Children's Services), maintain their levels of knowledge and know whom to approach for guidance. The SRO has given assurances to the Inspector that the integrity of your Council's processes and governance procedures will be maintained to ensure that the noted high standards of compliance with the Act and relevant codes of practice, continue.

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

I shall be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter within two months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Leveson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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