



Chief
Surveillance
Commissioner

9th December 2013

Restricted

Dear M/s Aisbett,

Covert Surveillance

On 6 August 2013, an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner, HH David Hodson, 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 Hodson's report which I endorse. I very much regret the delay in sending this to you which is due to an administrative error in my office. I am pleased to see that, since the last inspection 3 year ago, there has been marked progress in relation to your RIPA procedures. All the recommendations then made have been implemented, you have an excellent Policy and Guidance document and up to date training has been provided for relevant staff. This is all particularly commendable because, during the same period, no actual use has been made of your covert powers: you are clearly well equipped to use them properly when the need arises.

There are no formal recommendations but Mr Hodson has made a few suggestions which you will wish to consider

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*

M/s Lynn Aisbett
Chief Executive
Melton Borough Council
Parkside
Station Approach
Burton Street
Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 1GH

RESTRICTED



OFFICE OF SURVEILLANCE COMMISSIONERS

INSPECTION REPORT

Melton Borough Council

6th August 2013

**Assistant Surveillance Commissioner:
HH David Hodson.**

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED covering CONFIDENTIAL

DISCLAIMER

This report contains the observations and recommendations identified by an individual surveillance inspector, or team of surveillance inspectors, during an inspection of the specified public authority conducted on behalf of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner.

The inspection was limited by time and could only sample a small proportion of covert activity in order to make a subjective assessment of compliance. Failure to raise issues in this report should not automatically be construed as endorsement of the unreported practices.

The advice and guidance provided by the inspector(s) during the inspection could only reflect the inspectors' subjective opinion and does not constitute an endorsed judicial interpretation of the legislation. Fundamental changes to practices or procedures should not be implemented unless and until the recommendations in this report are endorsed by the Chief Surveillance Commissioner.

The report is sent only to the recipient of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner's letter (normally the Chief Officer of the authority inspected). Copies of the report, or extracts of it, may be distributed at the recipient's discretion but the version received under the covering letter should remain intact as the master version.

The Office of Surveillance Commissioners is not a public body listed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, however, requests for the disclosure of the report, or any part of it, or any distribution of the report beyond the recipients own authority is permissible at the discretion of the Chief Officer of the relevant public authority without the permission of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner. Any references to the report, or extracts from it, must be placed in the correct context.

RESTRICTED