



Investigatory Powers
Commissioner's Office

PO Box 29105, London
SW1V 1ZU

Mr Mike Palin
Chief Executive
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
St Helens Town Hall
Victoria Square
St Helens
WA10 1HP

5th November 2018

Dear Mr Palin,

Inspection Report – St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

I enclose a copy of a report dated 12th October 2018 prepared by Mr Graham Wright, an Inspector with the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, which I fully endorse. This follows an inspection visit carried out at your Council on 10th October 2018 to review your compliance with the statutory provisions of Part II of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which is part of my responsibilities.

I am very pleased to note that the previous recommendations have been adequately addressed and are now discharged. Moreover, the tenor of the present report is generally very positive.

There is one recommendation that relates to the submission of cancellations in the context of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources (CHIS). This step is a requirement of the Act and the Code of Practice. In the event, your Council is vulnerable to challenge as regards the correct management and oversight of authorised covert activity. There are other learning points identified by Mr Wright and I hope that your staff will make full use of the inspection process.

I trust that you found this inspection a constructive experience and I look forward to receiving your action plan in relation to the one recommendation that has been made.

Yours sincerely,

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