

I am writing to obtain information about your authority's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Scotland (RIPSA).

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

**1) How many times has your authority authorised operations or investigations under RIPA or RIPSA in the periods and how many resulted in prosecutions and convictions?**

**a) 1st March 2009 to 28th February 2010?**

Between 1 March 2009 and 28 February 2010, we authorised 11 operations or investigations under RIPA. Four of which involved the same two investigations.

As a result of these operations/investigations there were eight arrests and eight Police cautions. There were no prosecutions.

**b) 1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011?**

Between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011, we authorised eight operations or investigations under RIPA. Two of which involved the same two operations/investigations as previous RIPA authorised in 2009/10.

As a result of these operations/investigations there were two arrests, one Police caution, one conviction and one prosecution.

**c) 1st March 2011 to 29th February 2012**

Between 1 March 2011 and 29 February 2012, we authorised seven operations or investigations under RIPA. One of which involved the same operations/investigations as previous RIPA during 2010/11.

As a result of these operations/investigations there were two arrests, two prosecutions and two convictions.

Please note that:

- some investigations by their very nature can take up to two/three years from beginning of the investigation until arrest or/and prosecution. Therefore, within the authorisations listed above there are many cases where RIPA was authorised and used but the investigation is still ongoing and further arrests/prosecutions may, or may not, be made before the investigation ends.
- some investigations require more than one RIPA authority during the course of the investigation, which we've highlighted above. Over the three year period requested there were 26 RIPA authorisations involving 21 investigations.
- we do not have powers under RIPSA; therefore we have not authorised any operations/investigations under RIPSA during the periods requested.

**2) In each instance, please state the nature of the offence (e.g. graffiti, fly tipping etc.).**

You can find the nature of each offence below split into the time periods you requested.

**1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010**

- Two authorisations for investigations involving suspected impersonation at driving tests
- Three authorisations for investigations involving suspected illegal driving instruction
- Six authorisations for investigations involving suspected internal fraud

**1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011**

- Four authorisations for investigations involving suspected impersonation at driving tests
- Four authorisations for investigations involving suspected internal fraud

**1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012**

- Four authorisations for investigations involving suspected impersonation at driving tests
- Three authorisations for investigations involving suspected internal fraud

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