

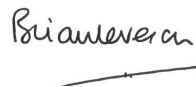
Quarterly Newsletter: Summer 2020

A Message from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, Sir Brian Leveson:

Events during the last quarter have forced us all to adapt the way we work. At IPCO, we too have had to change to ensure that we can maintain our robust oversight regime. This update explains some of what we have done to continue our work. As ever, my staff are available to answer any questions you have.

We welcome your feedback and any content that you would like us to circulate this way in the future. If you have any best practice examples you are proud of, or any news that you'd like to share, please do let us know.

I hope you will find this of interest.




Updates from IPCO: data assurance

Data assurance is the ability to map all data pathways through your organisation. In the context of investigatory powers, this means understanding how data is obtained using each covert tactic and then transferred, stored and disseminated within your organisation. This could include archived paper records, operational management systems such as CLIO, or shared drives accessed by SPoCs and the CAB.

To ensure compliance with the [Investigatory Powers Act 2016](#) and with Codes of Practice for each covert tactic, all of these data storage systems must have in place:

- a data retention policy; and
- automatic or manual review and deletion processes.

IPCO has expanded its Data Assurance team by appointing two new inspectors to complete a full review of how these provisions are complied with across all organisations we oversee.

Although currently we might not be out and about as much as normal, our Inspectors remain available to discuss this work further or answer any questions you may have.

IPCO and the Coronavirus Act 2020:

[The Investigatory Powers \(Temporary Judicial Commissioners and Modification of Time Limits\) Regulations 2020](#) came into force in March 2020, under powers contained in the Coronavirus Act, and included two changes that were relevant to IPCO.

These have been important in ensuring that both IPCO and those who seek authorisations for the use of investigatory powers have been able to meet our statutory responsibilities during this period.

The Act:

- allows the appointment of Temporary Judicial Commissioners; and
- modifies the maximum time allowed for an urgent warrant to be reviewed by a Judicial Commissioner once authorised to nine working days and extends the duration of the urgent warrant to 12 working days.

Our Temporary Judicial Commissioners were appointed by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner on 21 April 2020.

Spotlight on... Inspections during the Covid-19 pandemic:

What changed?

As for many other organisations, the last few months have brought their challenges for IPCO. One of our most significant issues for us to consider was how to continue our inspection work as the pandemic quickly made physical visits impossible.

What did we do?

All face-to-face IPCO inspections were suspended at the beginning of lockdown.

We already had some experience of carrying out remote (or desktop) inspections of certain types of organisations and, before lockdown, were in the process of trying to secure remote access to some law enforcement systems to offer some flexibility in how we approached our work.

This has now been expanded and expedited so we can test different options for remote inspections; obviously logistical and security challenges mean that we will need different arrangements for the different sectors we oversee but we are very positive about the prospects for the next few months and beyond.

What happens next?

We are very grateful to everyone across law enforcement, the intelligence agencies and other public authorities who have responded positively to our new requests. We are continuing to test a number of different ways of working, including using secure IT connections, specially delivered laptops or hosting VTCs from IPCO's offices where we are able to travel. We will keep you updated as our experiences develop.

Obviously our original timetable for 2020 is no longer in place. We have a clear view of those inspections that should take precedence and our Inspectors should be in touch if they haven't already been so. If you have any questions about the timing of your next inspection then please do contact us at info@ipco.org.uk.

Reminders:

- For those submitting applications for authorisations whilst working remotely, please note: IPCO can receive applications classified as **OFFICIAL SENSITIVE** via email. You can submit **OFFICIAL SENSITIVE** applications only to the [Review team email](#).
- If you receive an FOI request for an IPCO inspection report of your organisation, you should bring this to the attention of IPCO's Data Protection Officer (at: info@ipco.org.uk) before making any disclosures.
- IPCO is updating its contact list. If you have not already provided us with up-to-date contact information, please email the appropriate details to info@ipco.org.uk.
- If you have any queries about reporting errors please contact us **as soon as possible before the five-day reporting deadline**.
- If you have any good news stories or information you would like circulated in this newsletter, please email [IPCO's Communications team](#).

Noteworthy news:

[IPCO](#): Temporary Judicial Commissioners appointed (21/04/20)

EHN: Power Arranger (04/2020) [PDF attached to email]

[IPCO](#): Coronavirus Act 2020: maintaining oversight (31/03/20)

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Resources



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