

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000

**The Use of Powers to Conduct Directed Surveillance and
Interception of Communications**

Policy Statement

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act gives powers to Local Authorities to undertake directed surveillance and to utilise covert human intelligence sources in prescribed circumstances

In prescribed circumstances the Council also has powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act to obtain information ('intercept') about electronic communications.

Where grounds to exercise such powers are established, the Council will only undertake directed surveillance or the interception of communications when no other reasonable means are available to obtain the necessary information, and then only with the prior approval of the Head of Legal and Governance Services and in accordance with statutory guidance.