



## **RESULT OF HOME OFFICE REVIEW REGARDING RIPA AND ACCESSING COMMUNICATIONS DATA (SPoC PROVISIONS)**

PHF Training Ltd is one of only three Accredited Home Office training providers delivering the Home Office Accredited Course for Accessing Communications Data.

Under the RIPA Act and the Codes of Practice for the Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data, since 2003 certain Public Authorities such as your organisation have been allocated the powers to access communications data for criminal offences via a Home Office trained Single Point of Contact (SPoC). The Codes require your organisation to have a Senior Responsible Officer to oversee these legislative provisions amongst other responsibilities mentioned in the Code. The Codes also mention other nominated roles, such as the Accredited Officer known as a Single Point of Contact (SPoC). Whether you currently access data under these provisions or not you are still required to have nominated a Senior Responsible Officer, and you will also be required to have in place guidance relating to this part of RIPA.

As a result of the Home Office review into the current training provisions regarding the accessing of communications data via your organisation's Home Office trained Single Point of Contact (SPoC), there have been considerable changes in relation to this legislation and its previous interpretation provided to any members of staff who have undertaken any training in this area. These changes will have a fundamental impact on the way in which you manage your provisions under the legislation.

There is now obviously a training requirement to update any officers who are trained as a Single Point of Contact (SPoC), and also for Authorising Officers known as Designated Persons under these provisions, for specific training regarding their responsibilities. The Codes stipulate that those individuals who undertake the role of a Designated Person must have a working knowledge of human rights principles, specifically those of necessity and proportionality, and how they apply this to the acquisition of communications data under Chapter II of Part I of the Act and this code. This will be one of several areas that will form part of more robust inspections in the future.

In view of the current provisions we are providing one-day refresher training to Accredited Officers (SPoCs), together with specific training to the Authorising Officers and the Senior Responsible Officer, in order that they can meet their responsibilities within the legislation and Codes of Practice. We are also continuing to provide the Home Office Accredited Course to train delegates from suitable organisations to become Accredited Home Office SPoCs.

We are able to provide in house training at your location or offer places on courses booked at various locations, including our own training room at Redditch in Worcestershire (address as above). If you require any further information or seek clarification of the law and the Codes of Practice in this area of RIPA, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Paul Fowler**  
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