Home Office

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(Took delivery on 13 April)

Ms N Klosterkotter-Drt-Rawe

Reference: T6001/11

7 April 2011

Dear Ms Klosterkotter-Drt-Rawe,

Thank you for your further letter of 29 March.

Much of the covert activity you describe would require authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) when used by public authorities such as the police or the Security Service. RIPA requires that, when public authorities need to use covert techniques likely to obtain private information about someone they are investigating, they do so in a way that is necessary and proportionate with regard to human rights. It regulates covert activity by limiting the use of these techniques by particular public authorities to particular purposes (such as national security, crime or public health). As part of the safeguards it attaches to authorisation, RIPA provides for detailed record keeping and oversight and inspection by independent Commissioners. It also provides for independent redress against complaints.

Anyone who believes that they have been the victim of unlawful covert surveillance, interception or any other investigatory power set out in RIPA can apply to a Tribunal to investigate their claim. The Tribunal is independent of Government, law enforcement or intelligence services. It can be contacted as follows:

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal
PO BOX 33220
London
SW1H 9ZQ
Telephone: 020 7035 3711
E-mail via the website at: http://www.ipt-uk.com

You may want to approach the Tribunal to find out whether you have been subjected to any unlawful activity under RIPA, to put your mind at rest or to consider whether something else could be the cause of what you are experiencing.

That "something else" INVOLVES the State

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Lean