



## **Statement by The Rt Hon. Sir Anthony May, Interception of Communications Commissioner**

Upon resuming his functions as Interception of Communications Commissioner on 1 January 2015, Sir Anthony May said:

***"I am delighted to be returning to my role as Interception of Communications Commissioner. I am most grateful to the Rt Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy for standing in during my recuperation from a serious road traffic accident and to all the members of my office for the work they have undertaken during my absence.***

***Over recent weeks I have caught up on the work that IOCCO has been involved in. In the New Year I will be concentrating on writing my half-yearly report to the Prime Minister and concluding the additional inquiries and investigations that my office has been carrying out."***

Notes to editors:

IOCCO is an independent oversight body – independent of Government and Parliament – we are led by the Interception of Communications Commissioner. The Commissioner is required to have held high judicial office. Sir Anthony May was involved in a road traffic accident in the summer of 2014 and suffered serious injuries. The Rt Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy was appointed as interim Commissioner by the Prime Minister and has covered in Sir Anthony's absence.

We conduct thorough and robust inspections of public authorities which have powers to intercept communications and / or acquire communications data. These inspections ensure they are acting within the law. We carried out over 100 inspections in 2013, and made 350 recommendations to ensure compliance or to improve systems and procedures.

In 2014 in addition to our revolving programme of inspections IOCCO has been involved in:

- The inquiry into whether there is institutional overuse of communications data by police forces and law enforcement agencies<sup>1</sup>;
- Reviewing whether the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act (DRIPA) 2014 (with the Data Retention Regulations 2014) does merely replace the powers that were previously in existence<sup>2</sup>;
- The provision of assistance and evidence to the various RIPA and investigatory powers reviews<sup>3</sup>;
- The investigation of a number of Communication Service Provider (CSP) technical system errors<sup>4</sup>;
- Work to enhance the communications data statistical requirements to improve transparency<sup>5</sup>;
- The inquiry into the acquisition of communications data to identify journalistic sources<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Para's 4.27 to 4.31 of 2013 Annual Report <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/2013%20Annual%20Report%20of%20the%20IOCCO%20Accessible%20Version.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20response%20to%20new%20reporting%20requirements.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20Evidence%20for%20the%20Investigatory%20Powers%20Review.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/ErrorsCirculartoSROs.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Annex A of <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20Evidence%20for%20the%20Investigatory%20Powers%20Review.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20inquiry%20into%20use%20of%20comms%20data%20to%20identify%20journalistic%20sources.pdf>