Investigatory Powers Tribunal
P.O. Box 33220 London
SW1H 9ZQ

Public line: 020 7035 3711
Email:generalenquiries@ipt-uk.com
Web: www.investigatorypowerstribunal.org.uk

Mr C Bury
[redacted]

Our ref: [redacted]

Date: 2 November 2023

Via email to: [redacted]

Dear Mr Bury,

We write further to your complaint against Herefordshire Council. In respect of the conduct complained the Respondents have provided the following statement:

> *Mr Bury claims that Herefordshire Council has been monitoring his internet activity since 2017. As part of the investigation into this claim and in order to answer these directions Herefordshire Council's ICT provider, Hoople Ltd have run an audit in order to establish if anyone using a Council computer has visited Mr Bury's website, as alleged. To be able to do this they were required to visit the website in question.*
> *The audit was run from 20 November 2022, as the earliest date possible. It showed (not including the views that were required in order to run the audit), that there were 5 hits in total to Mr Bury's website between 20 November 2022 and 12 September 2023 by 4 separate officers of the council. One of the officers has since left the council and one is unnamed. The other two officers do not recall visiting the website or why they would have done so. Both officers have also confirmed that they did not capture any evidence from the website. The officers were not performing surveillance or monitoring Mr Bury's internet activity, as alleged or at all. It is not within the role requirements of the individuals to undertake monitoring of internet presence of any party.*
> *Please note that neither the Council nor Hoople can provide information prior to 20 November 2022. Further the translation raised by Mr Bury that a specific IP address refers to the Council's users is not accurate. The IP address relates to that of a commonly used proxy server provider (Forcepoint Proxy Service). This is not evidence that the Council has accessed his website as the same IP address can be used by any of the service providers other customers.*

Herefordshire Council have provided us with documents relating to your complaint. Please find copies of these documents attached.

If you have any submissions in reply, responses are to be given within 28 days from the date of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,



Tribunal Caseworker