



**15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**IOCCO Response to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)  
Independent Surveillance Review report**

Yesterday the RUSI Independent Surveillance Review report entitled "*A Democratic Licence to Operate*" was published. The report was commissioned by the former Deputy Prime Minister in March 2014.

We were very pleased to contribute to the review. In February 2015 we attended a roundtable with the RUSI panel and we also made available to them a number of our reports and publications.

The RUSI review is significant because it has tried to interpret its terms of reference from the perspective of the citizen and it brings together the views of a panel of diverse voices who give unanimous support to the recommendations.

The report offers 10 tests (or enduring principles) which any new legislation or regulation must be seen to pass before Parliament and the public have confidence in it, and which also guarantee the ability of the police and intelligence agencies to continue to go about their work.

We read with interest the comments and recommendations in relation to reforming oversight and look forward to future consultations and engagement to consider such issues and how they can be developed and implemented.

**Notes to Editors:**

The Government has committed to bring forward a draft Investigatory Powers Bill by the Autumn which will be scrutinised in Parliament by a joint committee of both houses and has said that it will take into account the findings and recommendations from the ISC's Privacy and Security Inquiry report, David Anderson Q.C.'s Investigatory Powers Review report and the report of the RUSI Independent Surveillance Review.

IOCCO is an independent oversight body – independent of Government and Parliament – we are led by the Interception of Communications Commissioner.

IOCCO conducts thorough and robust inspections of public authorities which have powers to intercept communications and / or acquire communications data under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA). These inspections ensure they are acting within the law.

IOCCO carried out 116 RIPA inspections in 2013, and made over 400 recommendations to ensure compliance or to improve systems and procedures. Our latest reports can be found on our website.