

PRESS STATEMENT



FRIDAY 29th MAY 2015

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

Upon deciding to stand down as Interception of Communications Commissioner at the end of July 2015, Sir Anthony May said:

"I was able to resume my post as Interception of Communications Commissioner on January 1st 2015 after suffering a serious road accident in June 2014. On my return I outlined my intention to finish our inquiry into the use by police forces of communications data powers under RIPA to determine journalistic sources and complete my half-yearly report which was laid in Parliament by the Prime Minister on 12th March 2015.

Having completed these two important and significant pieces of work I have now had time to reflect on my role and have taken the decision to stand down at the end of July 2015. This is because I no longer feel that I am in a position to give the role the commitment that it requires and deserves. I am very grateful to the Prime Minister for accepting my decision to stand down prior to the end of my three year term which was up in December 2015.

My office have provided me with tremendous support since I took up post in January 2013 and will continue to carry out its considerable inspection responsibilities and any additional inquiries and investigations. IOCCO remains committed to better informing the public and Parliament about our work and to ensuring there is greater transparency and accountability with regard to public authorities' use of intrusive RIPA powers."

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 covered the post until 31st December 2014.

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 annual report can be accessed via this link..

[http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20Report%20March%202015%20\(Web\).pdf](http://www.iocco-uk.info/docs/IOCCO%20Report%20March%202015%20(Web).pdf)