

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal

INFORMATION LEAFLET for Human Rights Claim Form T1
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA)

These Acts establish an independent Tribunal to consider all complaints and Human Rights Act claims which fall within its jurisdiction. Complainants are entitled to lodge either a complaint, or a claim under the Human Rights Act, or both, using the relevant form(s).

Under Section 68 of RIPA, the Tribunal is entitled to determine its own procedures. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal Rules 2000 are set out in Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 2662 and are available on the Tribunal website at www.ipt-uk.com

What Human Rights Act Claims can the Tribunal consider?

If you consider that your human rights and freedoms established in the Human Rights Act 1998 have been infringed by any of the authorities listed below or on the IPT website, please complete Form T1. Proceedings under section 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998 are brought by a complainant sending to the Tribunal a form and other information in accordance with Rule 7 of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal Rules:

“7 (2) The form must be signed by the complainant and must:

- (a) state the name, address and date of birth of the complainant;
- (b) state each public authority against which the proceedings are brought;
- (c) describe the nature of the claim (including details of the Convention right which it is alleged has been infringed) and of the complainant’s interest; and
- (d) specify the remedy which the complainant seeks.

(3) The complainant must also supply, either in or with the form, a summary of the information on which the claim is based.”

QUESTION 1: ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Tribunal is the body to complain to if you believe that your human rights have been infringed as a result of actions carried out by the:

- **Intelligence Services, i.e:**
 - **The Security Service (commonly known as MI5)**
 - **The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS – commonly known as MI6)**
 - **Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)**

or by any of the following Public Authorities:

- **Any of Her Majesty's Armed Forces**
- **Any Police Force**
- **The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)**
- **HM Revenue and Customs**
- **The Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency**

QUESTION 2: CONDUCT WHICH THIS TRIBUNAL MAY CONSIDER

The conduct alleged must have taken place in relation to you, your property or your communications and must involve, or have involved, one or more of the following:

- **Conduct by or on behalf of any of the Intelligence Services (ie, the Security Service (MI5), Secret Intelligence Service (SIS or MI6) and Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ.))**
- **The interception of your communications by post or your telecommunications.**
- **Surveillance which has resulted, or is likely to result, in private information about you being obtained.**
- **Surveillance concerning you which has been, or is being, carried out in relation to anything taking place on any residential premises or in any private vehicle.**
- **The use of a Covert Human Intelligence Source, e.g. the use of a personal relationship to obtain information about you without you knowing about it.**
- **Any entry on or interference with property or interference with wireless telegraphy.**
- **Obtaining data about you relating to a communications system.**
- **The giving of a notice under section 49 relating to investigation of electronic data protected by encryption.**

If your claim relates to the infringement of your Human Rights by an organisation not listed above, or in any other circumstances, you should take the matter up with the organisation concerned; such claims do not normally fall within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

QUESTIONS 3, 4 AND 5: DETAILS OF WHAT HAPPENED

You must supply, either within or alongside the T1 form, a summary of the information, and other documentary evidence where appropriate, on which your claim is based, i.e. what happened, where and when.

QUESTION 7: EVENTS LONGER THAN A YEAR AGO

Normally the Tribunal will only consider investigating complaints made within one year of the occurrence of the event(s) to which they relate. If the events began more than a year ago and continued into the past year or are continuing, the Tribunal can investigate them. The Tribunal may consider investigating older complaints on a discretionary basis. If your complaint relates to events that occurred more than a year ago you must provide an explanation for the delay in submitting your complaint.

QUESTION 8: REMEDIES

Please specify the remedy you are seeking. The Tribunal has power in appropriate cases to award compensation, to quash or cancel any warrant or authorisation, to order destruction of records and to make other orders as it thinks fit.

How to apply to the Tribunal

You apply to the Tribunal by completing Form T1 (Human Rights Act Claim Form) This form sets out the information which the Tribunal requires in order to consider commencing an investigation.

The T1 form must be signed by the complainant and must be legible, written in black or dark ink and in block capitals.

Copies of the T1 form can be downloaded from the Tribunal website www.ipt-uk.com or obtained from the Tribunal Secretary by writing to:

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal
PO Box 33220
London
SW1H 9ZQ

You can also telephone the Tribunal on: 020 7035 3711

Form T1 and supporting documentation should be sent to the Tribunal Secretary at the above address. You should not under any circumstances write directly to the members of the Tribunal.

Investigation by the Tribunal

The Tribunal will write to you acknowledging receipt of your Human Rights Act claim form. If your claim falls within its jurisdiction to investigate and is not frivolous or vexatious, the Tribunal will then initiate its investigation into whether any activity you have alleged was carried out in relation to you, your property or your communications and, if it was, whether the conduct was properly authorised and whether any such activity breached your human rights.

Confidentiality

The Tribunal can only disclose to other parties involved in the investigation procedure your name, address, date of birth and the identity of the body against whom you are making the complaint. Your consent is required to reveal any other details about you or the basis of your complaint. The Tribunal will only reveal such details with your consent to the extent necessary to enable your complaint to be properly investigated. You do not need to give your consent to that but, if you do not, it may prevent a full investigation of your complaint from taking place. For example, if your complaint is that your telephone has been tapped, your consent to disclose the telephone number concerned would be necessary to enable an investigation to take place.

The Outcome

The Tribunal will advise you as soon as it can whether or not it has found in your favour. Were the Tribunal to find in your favour, it will, where permissible, provide you with a summary of its determination and any findings of fact. If it upholds your complaint the Tribunal may, after considering representations from you, also order such remedial action as it considers appropriate. If the Tribunal does not make a determination in your favour, it is not permitted to provide an explanation of the reasons for its decision under (RIPA section 68(4)(b))

Also Available

Form T2 (Complaint Form)

T2 Information Leaflet

Form T1 (Human Rights Act ClaimForm)

Legislation

If you wish to consult the legislation relating to your complaint, you can do so via the Tribunal website www.ipt-uk.com/. Legislation not found there may be found on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information www.opsi.gov.uk/

Some of the legislation you may also wish to consult is as follows:

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA)
Investigatory Powers Tribunal Rules (Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 2665)
Intelligence Services Act 1994
Security Service Act 1989 and 1996
Police Act 1997