



Home Office

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
Minister of State for Policing and Fire
Services

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Tony Porter
Surveillance Camera Commissioner
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13 January 2017

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November, requesting reconsideration of recommendation six in your review of the code and in particular expansion of the list of relevant authorities who must have regard to its requirements to include NHS Trusts.

When we met on 18 October, I indicated that I was not minded to amend the code to expand the list of relevant authorities because I considered that we had not exhausted the possibilities of increasing voluntary compliance with its requirements. That remains my position. However, I also offered to write to the Minister for Health and the Chair of the Local Government Association to encourage them to engage positively with you and, in the case of the Department of Health, to work with you to explore the benefits of voluntary adoption of the code within the NHS. I have now done so and I attach copies of the letters I have sent.

I have also asked my officials to liaise with their counterparts in the Department of Health to further discuss what steps can be taken to encourage compliance with the code within the NHS on a voluntary basis. Whilst I do not currently believe that expanding the list of relevant authorities is necessary and instead favour encouraging organisations and institutions to adopt the code on a voluntary basis, I am willing to revisit the issue if a stronger case for additional regulation can be made.

As an already existing relevant authority, I have reminded the Local Government Association that under Section 33(5) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, local authorities in England and Wales are under a statutory duty to have regard to guidance in the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice when exercising any functions to which the code relates.

I have also offered your support in helping promote this more effectively to local authorities.

My officials will update you on progress in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Lewis'. The signature is stylized with a large 'B' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP