



**SURVEILLANCE CAMERA
COMMISSIONER**

Surveillance Camera Code of Practice

Tony Porter



My Background

- Joined Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in 1982 serving communities in Stockport, Manchester and Oldham in a variety of roles. Carried out various senior roles in Manchester.
- In June 2012 was promoted to T/Assistant Chief Constable and performed the role of National Co-ordinator (Pursue) throughout the duration of the London Olympics. Role entailed responsibility for the management, supervision and direction of all CT investigations throughout the Games.
- Moved to Barclays Bank as Head of Physical Security Intelligence in 2012 after the Olympics.
- Now Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

My role

- The role was created under the Protections Freedoms Act 2012.
- I'm an independent appointee and as the role is enshrined in primary legislation it can only be changed by another Act of Parliament.
- Simply put my role was created to ensure that surveillance camera systems are used to protect and support communities rather than spy on them.

Code of Practice

- The surveillance camera code of practice was published in June 2013 by the Home Office.
- It covers England and Wales – Scotland have their own code.
- Relevant Authorities such as Police Forces and Local Authorities **must** pay due regard to the code when installing new systems or when reviewing those they currently use.
- There are 12 guiding principle which if followed will create a framework to reassure the public that surveillance camera systems are used effectively, proportionately and transparently.

The Guiding Principles

1. Use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.
2. The use of a surveillance camera system must take into account its effect on individuals and their privacy, with regular reviews to ensure its use remains justified.
3. There must be as much transparency in the use of a surveillance camera system as possible, including a published contact point for access to information and complaints.
4. There must be clear responsibility and accountability for all surveillance camera system activities including images and information collected, held and used.
5. Clear rules, policies and procedures must be in place before a surveillance camera system is used, and these must be communicated to all who need to comply with them.
6. No more images and information should be stored than that which is strictly required for the stated purpose of a surveillance camera system, and such images and information should be deleted once their purposes have been discharged.
7. Access to retained images and information should be restricted and there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted; the disclosure of images and information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.
8. Surveillance camera system operators should consider any approved operational, technical and competency standards relevant to a system and its purpose and work to meet and maintain those standards.
9. Surveillance camera system images and information should be subject to appropriate security measures to safeguard against unauthorised access and use
10. There should be effective review and audit mechanisms to ensure legal requirements, policies and standards are complied with in practice, and regular reports should be published.
11. When the use of a surveillance camera system is in pursuit of a legitimate aim, and there is a pressing need for its use, it should then be used in the most effective way to support public safety and law enforcement with the aim of processing images and information of evidential value.
12. Any information used to support a surveillance camera system which compares against a reference database for matching purposes should be accurate and kept up to date.

What the Principles Mean

- The principles balance the rights of the citizen against the needs of the state.
- They ensure that surveillance camera systems are used appropriately and proportionately.
- They enable communities to hold CCTV operators to account so that surveillance cameras are only ever used for an acceptable purpose.
- They mean that CCTV should not be used in a way that it breaches an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy.

More on my role

- My role is in line with the government's desire to cut red tape. As such there is no extra burden placed on business and I have no powers of enforcement or sanction.
- My role is to:
 - encourage compliance with the surveillance camera code of practice
 - review how the code is working
 - provide advice to ministers on whether or not the code needs amending
 - provide advice and information to the public and system operators about the effective, appropriate, proportionate and transparent use of surveillance camera systems.

Challenges and Opportunities

- I work closely with other regulators. The area of greatest overlap is with the Information Commissioner – we have a memorandum of understanding in place which makes clear where the overlaps are and ensures they're properly managed.
- I'm determined to provide leadership for the sector so me and my team are the first port of call for anything related to surveillance camera systems.
- I want to raise standards and agree an effective and agreed framework to enable the industry to standardise and simplify it's approach. Moving from a plethora of guidance and standards to something more user friendly.
- Keeping up with changes in technology and ensuring they are code compliant.