



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP,
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Tony Porter
Surveillance Camera Commissioner
2 Marsham Street
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22 MAR 2016

Dear Tony

Thank you for submitting your review into the impact and operation of the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. I know a great deal of effort went into compiling the review and recommendations.

I am not yet convinced that granting your office enforcement and sanction powers would improve compliance. As you are aware, the Information Commissioner already has powers to enforce the Surveillance Code of Practice, and I am concerned that additional regulation could cause confusion.

However, as you are aware, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA) received Royal Assent on 1st May 2012, and as such will be due for post-legislative Scrutiny in 2017. This process will allow us to review all structures set up under the Act.

I note your other recommendations, and would be interested in seeing more detail on how these might operate in practice, along with proposals for taking these forward. I would encourage you to do this in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders as you develop your National Surveillance Camera Strategy

I am afraid that due to diary commitments I am unable to meet with you to discuss the review. However, I look forward to hearing more detail on the National Surveillance Strategy when it is launched at the end of the year.

*Regards
mpe*

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP