



**SURVEILLANCE CAMERA
COMMISSIONER**

A National Surveillance Camera Strategy for England and Wales [DRAFT]

Executive Summary

October 2016



1. The Government is fully supportive of the use of overt surveillance cameras in a public place whenever that use is: in pursuit of a legitimate aim; necessary to meet a pressing need; proportionate; effective, and; compliant with any relevant legal obligations.
2. The Surveillance Camera Commissioner is appointed by the Home Secretary as set out in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA). It is Commissioner's role to ensure surveillance camera systems in public places keep people safe and protect and support them. The Commissioner's remit applies to England and Wales, as does the Government's Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (SC Code).
3. The surveillance camera sector includes CCTV, body worn video, automatic number plate recognition and unmanned aerial vehicles. Indicative estimates are available of the number of CCTV cameras yet these only cover part of surveillance camera coverage and capability.
4. Work on a strategy was agreed by the Commissioner's Advisory Council in January 2016. The Advisory Council agreed to support work to draw together a comprehensive national surveillance camera strategy that seeks to develop a holistic approach to raising standards and compliance with legal obligations in line with the 12 guiding principles of the SC Code. Partnership working is at the heart of the strategy.
5. It is an ambitious strategy with long-term objectives and delivery plans which extend beyond 2020. In the first three-year period (2017 – 2020) we will progress in the full knowledge that technological change is moving at an exponential rate, so the world is changing around us. We want to develop a stronger evidence base before 2020 to inform further strategic planning to maintain momentum.
6. The Commissioner's strategic vision is:

The public are assured that surveillance cameras in public places are there to keep and make them feel safe, and that those cameras are deployed and used responsibly as well as transparently in a manner which is proportionate to their legitimate purpose.

7. The Commissioner will deliver this strategic vision by:

Providing direction and leadership in the surveillance camera community, to enable system operators to understand best and good practice, and then demonstrate compliance with the principles of the SC Code and any associated guidance.

8. Therefore, the strategy links in with other relevant legislation such as the Data Protection Act, Private Security Industry Act and other associated guidance.
9. The strategy will reach out to all system operators. Those who are a relevant authority under a statutory duty to have regard to the SC Code, and those who are free to adopt the SC Code on a voluntary basis.
10. The strategy has been divided into the following work strands each led by sector expert:
 - Standards
 - Horizon Scanning
 - Civil Engagement
 - Police

- Local authorities
- Voluntary adopters
- Critical National Infrastructure
- Installers, designers and manufacturers
- Training
- Regulation

11. Objectives have been developed for each strand with a supporting delivery plan setting out specific actions and outputs which contribute towards achieving the strategic mission. Delivery plans will be published in 2017.

12. The Commissioner owns the strategy and is accountable to Parliament and the public through the submission of an Annual Report which is laid in both Houses.

