

Dear Chief Executive

COMPLIANCE WITH THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERA CODE OF PRACTICE

I'm writing to you in my capacity of Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

The role of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner was created under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, appointed by the Home Secretary and independent of Government. As Commissioner I am required to ensure that surveillance camera systems, such as CCTV and ANPR, are used in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (a copy is enclosed with this letter). This Home Office issued code outlines twelve guiding principles for using surveillance camera systems with a view to achieving surveillance by consent.

The Act places Local Authorities on a list of 'relevant authorities' (s.33 (5)) who must pay due regard to the code when using surveillance camera systems. As one of my statutory objectives is to encourage compliance with the code, I am keen to understand how the code is being adopted amongst Local Authorities and in particular where CCTV is used to monitor public space – typically this would be in locations such as town centres. In fact I am required in statute to review the operation of the code of practice as well as the regulatory landscape that CCTV occupies and provide a report to the Home Secretary in the autumn. As Chief Executive you are ultimately responsible in ensuring that your systems adhere to the twelve guiding principles in the code of practice.

To help Local Authorities understand how closely their public space CCTV systems are meeting the twelve guiding principles I have developed an easy to use self-assessment tool. This will enable CCTV Operators/Managers understand where they are meeting the principles of the code and where they may need to take action to comply.

Please share this with your public space CCTV Manager and ask them to complete it – you can find it on my website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/surveillance-camera-code-of-practice-self-assessment-tool>

I will be including completion rates amongst Local Authorities in my report to the Home Secretary so it would be helpful if you could ask them to contact my office by emailing scc@sccommissioner.gsi.gov.uk by 30 June 2015 once completed. We also welcome

feedback on how the tool was to complete and in the interests of transparency I'd encourage you to publish your completed self-assessment on your website.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "P".

Tony Porter
Surveillance Camera Commissioner