The Future of CCTV: Protecting the Public and its Data in the Face of
                           Technological Change

                         Thursday, August 3rd 2023
                                  Webinar
                           Key Speakers Include:
      Madeleine Stone, Legal and Policy Officer at Big Brother Watch
 Professor Fraser Sampson, Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner
   Steven Wright, Principal Policy Adviser at Information Commissioner's
                                  Office
Dr Anjali Mazumder, Theme Lead on AI and Justice & Human Rights at the Alan
                             Turing Institute
                 Event Details Website Register to Attend
There  were  believed  to be at least 7.2 million CCTV cameras in the UK in
2022,  amounting  to  roughly  one  camera  for every nine people. This has
prompted  suggestions  by  many  that  we  are  among  the  most surveilled
societies  in the world. It is also estimated that 96% of these cameras are
owned  by private businesses and homeowners, with the highest proportion of
operational  CCTV  cameras  being  located  in  London.  The  UK College of
Policing  reports  that the use of CCTV reduces crime in the place in which
it  is  deployed  by  13%.  However,  as  technology  continues to develop,
particularly  with the rise of facial recognition, artificial intelligence,
drone  use,  and  concerns  around  spying from Chinese-made cameras, it is
essential  to evaluate the continued use of surveillance and the frameworks
guiding                              such                              use.

In  January 2022, an updated Surveillance Camera Code of Practice came into
effect,  setting  out  12  guiding  principles  that  should  apply  to all
surveillance camera systems in public places. These principles combine good
practice  and  existing  legal  obligations in order to create a regulatory
framework which can be widely understood. The use of CCTV is also regulated
by the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection
Act  2018.  This places a responsibility on CCTV users to be transparent in
their  use  of  CCTV  to collect data and to ensure that they have a lawful
basis  for  such  collection  of  personal  data.  The  Act also gives data
subjects the right to access and erasure, as well as the right to object to
capture  in the future. Individuals are also able to challenge the unlawful
operation  of  CCTV  by  appealing to the Information Commissioner’s Office
(ICO).

However,   the   increasing   use  of  CCTV,  as  well  as  the  increasing
sophistication of surveillance methods, has prompted serious concern across
the  UK.  The  testing  of  facial  recognition technology by police forces
across  the UK has been met with legal challenges, most notably in the 2020
Bridges  case,  in  which the technology was found to have breached privacy
rights,  data  protection  laws and equality laws. Similarly, police forces
have  been piloting drone-mounted cameras to film high-quality live footage
of  suspected  criminal  activity from 1,500ft away has raised concerns for
civil  liberties campaigners, who have emphasised the risk which this poses
to privacy as well as calling into question the role that private companies
play in state surveillance. The campaign group Big Brother Watch has warned
that  such  technology  could  be  misused  to target people taking part in
legitimate  activity,  such as demonstrations. The government’s independent
Biometrics  and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, Professor Fraser Sampson,
has  warned that British police are leaving themselves exposed to potential
spying  by  China  due to their reliance on Chinese-made CCTV cameras. Many
have  also  called  attention  to  the  human  rights records of CCTV firms
supplying  technology  to public institutions in the UK, particularly those
linked      to      the     repression     of     Uyghurs     in     China.

This symposium provides an opportunity to understand and discuss the future
of  video  surveillance systems. The symposium will help local authorities,
police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners, community safety teams, CCTV
system  operators  and  other key stakeholders discover how to uphold civil
liberties  and  individual  freedoms,  whilst fulfilling video surveillance
systems’  potential  as  an  effective  component  of  crime  reduction and
property protection.

Programme
      Analyse the existing legislative framework regulating the use of
      video surveillance and discuss areas for further legislative reform
      Evaluate the new Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and reflect
      upon its practical implications for CCTV use
      Discuss how best to regulate CCTV in the face of growing facial
      recognition, artificial intelligence, and drone use
      Assess the risks of Chinese spying posed by the growing use of
      Chinese-made CCTV by British police using
      Examine the ethical considerations of video surveillance systems and
      its potential to exacerbate racial tensions and public trust
      Reflect upon concerns regarding the human rights records of CCTV
      firms
      Assess the economic impacts of compliance with current regulations
      Review methods of improving public trust in video surveillance
      systems
      Evaluate the utility of video surveillance systems as a form of crime
      prevention, property protections and public safety
      Reflect on how to best meet the security and privacy needs of local
      communities through the use video surveillance systems
      Discuss next steps in regulating the use of drones equipped with
      video surveillance technology by both police and individuals
      Analyse the use of facial recognition technology in video
      surveillance an consider its impact on discrimination and public
      trust
      Consider the domestic use of CCTV and methods to ensure that
      individuals are aware of their rights and obligations
To     register     for     the     briefing,     please     click    here.

Please  feel  free  to  circulate  this  information  on  to  any  relevant
colleagues

Kind regards,

Conference Team
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