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.  
  
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colleagues  
  
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Conference Team  
Public  Policy Exchange  
Tel:   020   3137 8630  
Fax: 020 3137 1459