



Well it's almost here; after much eager anticipation and not a little impressively restrained excitement, the christmas festivities will just have to wait a wee bit longer, now that the Dok's final Newsletter of the year has at last arrived. Yet again it's been almost a bumper month for CCTV related news, and whilst the trend will undoubtedly continue throughout 2010, if the recent past now seems nothing more than a distant blur, you can always look back fondly with my [Newsletter archive](#). For the moment at least I'd like to take this opportunity to offer you my warmest Seasons Greetings and very best wishes, for the coming year ahead. Happy Holidays!! DJ.

So what's been making the 'end of year' CCTV news?

This month's theme's tend to revolve around written reports, revolts and regulation. So in no particular order, the most recently published offering from the U.K. based civil liberties group 'Big Brother Watch', is the somewhat predictably entitled offering "[Big Brother is Watching](#)". Despite the less than original heading, this report which is based on research carried out through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, does actually contain some very useful and well presented data relating to the current extent of Local Authorities use of Public Space Surveillance (PSS) cameras, throughout the U.K. ([click here to read DJ's brief review](#)).

Meanwhile the Scottish Government (SG) have also been busy putting together a number of reports, including "The Effectiveness of Public Space CCTV: A review of recent published evidence regarding the impact of CCTV on crime". This is a particularly well put together analysis of contemporary academic research, which although not exhaustive in content, does provide a very agreeable read for those with an interest in the subject. The SG's second offering is a "Strategic Report on Improving the Efficiency & Effectiveness of Public-Space CCTV in Scotland". Unfortunately given my current workload, it hasn't as yet been possible to compile reviews, but watch this space!



['VIPER' CCTV Performance Evaluation Reports](#)



[The 'TRUSTED' CCTV Improvement Project](#)



[DJ's CCTV / IP Video Forum](#)



Those of you gifted with a slightly over developed photographic memory, may recall I mentioned in the October Newsletter, a new service being introduced called "Internet Eyes". This aims to offer (mostly smaller) CCTV system operators the facility of streaming their live camera feeds through the internet, into the homes of viewers who then have the opportunity to win a cash prize, if they are the first to spot and report a crime or suspicious activity in progress. Hardly surprisingly the operation has almost immediately drawn some well based objections from various civil liberties groups, including Privacy International, and the No-CCTV campaign, who have jointly tabled [a formal complaint](#) to the UK's Information Commissioner. At a fundamental level, whilst the complaints generally relate to the service itself, it does occur to me that the actual breach of the Data Protection Act rests from the outset with the CCTV owner / operators, who would almost certainly be failing to uphold their obligations under the act, if they agree to 'export' their CCTV data through a third party over the internet. Whilst the service launch appears to have been put back to the new year, it will be interesting to see if it can ever comply with some very valid legal objections.

As work on implementing the 44 recommendations of the UK's '[National CCTV Strategy](#)' continues apace, it's now been announced that a "[National CCTV Oversight Body](#)" will be established to oversee the work.

In a recent written statement to Parliament, the Home Office Minister responsible for Policing and Counter Terrorism, David Hanson, outlined the various functions of the new Strategy Oversight Board. It will be tasked with developing national standards for PSS surveillance, looking at wider training requirements, further engaging the public both in terms of raising awareness of CCTV and the mechanisms for complaining about misuse, and working on both future regulation and ongoing reviews and implementation of the existing National CCTV Strategy.

He further confirmed to the House the key appointment of Mr Andrew Rennison who is currently the UK's Forensic Science Regulator, to the additional role of CCTV Regulator. Whilst this interim position will initially be filled for up to a year, the decision to place the UK's foremost authority on Forensic Science into such a vital role, clearly signals a concerted intent to develop CCTV as an effective 'Third Forensic Discipline', after both fingerprints and DNA.

I would hope that as an industry, we will all not only offer our very best wishes to Mr. Rennison in his new position, but also be prepared to provide tangible involvement and support, in what is undoubtedly going to be a very challenging task in the coming year ahead.



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe

Keeping the vulnerable in vision - Following the death of a dementia patient in a care home in New Zealand, the Coroner has suggested that CCTV may offer some assistance in keeping an eye on vulnerable patients. Commenting on a possible solution, the CEO of the Aged Care Association has said "...I'm not entirely comfortable with CCTV coverage". - Source - [NZ City](#)

She's so found out ... - A 35 year old mother who denied kicking and stamping on her male victim using her stiletto shoes, has been found guilty after her attack was graphically recorded on CCTV. The incident which occurred outside the Castle Pub in Cambridge earlier this year, resulted in a conviction for 'actual bodily harm', with a 26 week suspended prison sentence, 180 hours of community service, and an order for costs and compensation. - Source - [CambridgeNews.co.uk](#)

You know you don't want it - The UK's Information Commissioner Mr. Richard Graham, has recently announced his departments intention to carry out a significant analysis of surveillance during 2010. He has also indicated that future deployment of CCTV needs to be based on a specific purpose rather than simply a desire, and has made clear his displeasure at some licensing authorities that insist on demanding CCTV as a matter of course. - Source - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Not exactly a drop in the ocean - Housing authorities in Hong Kong are spending \$2 million installing 10 additional mobile CCTV systems, to try and tackle the problem of people throwing objects off high buildings. The additional equipment will bring the total number of recording sets deployed to 116, in addition to five extra special operation teams tasked with investigating the incidents. - Source - [News.gov.hk](#)

Boys in blue ... with red faces - Embarrassed police officers are being asked to explain how an 18 month old girl was inadvertently handed over to the wrong person. The child was abducted from Walworth Police station in London, after a woman who was believed to be a friend of the mother, calmly walked out with the tot despite the presence of CCTV cameras - STOP PRESS The suspect who is believed to have mental issues, has subsequently been located and arrested, and the child safely returned to her mother. - Source - [The Press Association](#)

When cameras don't always count - It appears that Southampton City Council may have been ever so slightly economical with the truth, when civil liberties group Big Brother Watch, asked them to reveal how many CCTV cameras they operate. The council provided a figure of 339 for inclusion in the groups research, but the local newspaper has suggested that the actual total should have been 1,269. - Source - [Southern Daily Echo](#)

Putting back the sparkle - Police in the town of Panchkula, India have directed all jewellery stores to install CCTV systems by the 5th January 2010. The directive follows a spate of robberies, including one where five thieves impersonated police officers, in order to escape with their haul. The authorities have indicated that they want any CCTV recordings to be kept for a "few months". - Source - [Thaindian News](#)

Not fit for the doghouse - A 28 year old man has been prosecuted by the RSPCA, after he was captured on CCTV viciously attacking his Staffordshire Bull Terrier, in Weymouth, Dorset. The dog called Max, was repeatedly beaten and kicked in a drunken attack that continued on camera over a 20 minute period, apparently as a punishment for having bitten the owner some time earlier. The local dog warden having described the incident as "...one of the worst cases of cruelty I have ever seen.", will no doubt be watching with interest when sentence is passed at the Magistrates Court, early in the new year. - Source - [Dorset Echo](#)

It isn't only flocks that are watched - With the christmas holidays rapidly approaching, news from Snettisham in Norfolk, UK, where an elaborate display of seasonal illuminations, has become the subject of 24 hour CCTV monitoring, in an attempt to deter vandals from wreaking their havoc, on the annual celebrations. - Source - [MailOnline](#)

Schools banking on surveillance - 90 surveillance cameras are to be installed outside 40 public schools across Chicago, following a \$2m donation by Chase bank. It's reported that the video streams will be monitored both by the Chicago Police Department, and the office of emergency management and communications. - Source - [ABC7 News - WLS-TV Chicago](#)

It's not looking good - It's been reported that a quarter of the street surveillance cameras being operated by the Dallas Police Department, have been out of action for over two months. Following enquiries by the news media, it's now hoped that the faulty units will be back working again within a few days. - Source - [NBC DFW.com](#)

Who says crime doesn't pay? - An unwitting motorist who offered a pensioner a lift, has ended up with fines of £ 240 (US\$ 370, € 255) for briefly pulling up at a bus stop. The good samaritan's vehicle was captured on CCTV in the London Borough of Wandsworth, dropping off and later picking up his elderly passenger, in less than a minute. - Source - [MailOnline](#)



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

No seasonal cheer for traders - Shopkeepers on the Plough Estate in New Malden, Surrey, have been disappointed by a council decision not to fund CCTV to tackle ongoing problems with vandalism. Five years on from their first request, traders have recently suffered £ 80k (US\$ 130k, € 82k) worth of damage to their shop windows, but the council still maintains that it does not have the £ 44k funding necessary to install the desperately needed security cameras. - Source - [Croydon Guardian](#)

When cameras have their plaice - A European Union plan to control over fishing, has led to an agreement to allow UK trawlers to catch more fish. Any boats that are prepared to install three CCTV cameras to monitor on deck operations, will next year be permitted to land an additional 5% above their normal annual quota. - Source - [Times Online](#)

CCTV as the subject of surveillance - CCTV footage of an algerian man believed to have been carrying out extensive video surveillance for a possible terrorist attack in London, has been released by the police. Following growing criticism of officers routinely challenging innocent photographers, the recordings were made public to demonstrate the extent to which terrorism suspects are prepared to gather intelligence on potential targets, and the security cameras that are there to protect them. - Source - [London Evening Standard](#)

Determined to be dogged - A local councillor has voiced concerns over Middlesbrough Council's policy of video recording dog owners, out walking their pets in the local Albert Park. Council officers have been equipped to video people and their pets, in order to enforce a recently introduced 'Dog Control Order', this despite the councillors comments that anti social behaviour was undoubtedly a far bigger issue for residents. - Source - [Gazette Live](#)

Hidden cameras produce rubbish results - Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control have been carrying out an operation targeting fly-tippers operating in New Castle County. In the last 19 months, 15 people have been charged with illegal dumping on the strength of camera collected evidence. - Source - [Delaware Online](#)

The grass isn't always greener - US Border Patrol Agents are reporting some significant success in tackling drug smugglers on the Arizona border with Mexico. In one weekend earlier this month, over 9,500 pounds of marijuana was seized after four separate vehicles were spotted on video surveillance, travelling along the border fence. - Source - [Arizona Daily Star](#)

Troubles boiling over in Chile - The Chilean Government faced with a growing uprising of Mapuche militants, have set up security cameras along some of the country's major highways. Whilst being a minority group in the country's population, the Mapuche Indian peoples historical claim that tribal lands were taken first by the Spaniards, and later the Chilean government, has in recent times led to a spate of arson attacks, in particular against plantations and logging trucks working on and around the disputed lands. - Source - [TIME](#)

Caledonian cameras in context - A trio of reports into the use of Public Space CCTV, have just recently been published by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. Whilst one report carries out a systematic review of recent research on the subject, the second provides an overview of existing systems currently in operation. The final offering sets out a strategic approach towards improving current and future surveillance operations. - Source - [The Gov Monitor](#)

• Doktor Jon's current Global CCTV News page - <http://www.doktorjon.co.uk/whatsnew2.html> •

Forthcoming Security Shows & CCTV / IP Video related Events in 2010

- 17th - 19th January - [InterSec 2010](#) - Dubai Int. Conference Centre, UAE
- 17th - 21st January - [IS&T/SPIE Electronic Imaging](#) - California, USA
- 1st - 3rd February - [ASIS 4th Asia Pacific Conference](#) - Sydney, Australia
- 9th February - [IP in Action LIVE USA](#) - Pasadena, Los Angeles, USA
- 16th - 19th February - [SECURITY 2010](#) - Sofia, Bulgaria
- 24th - 25th February - [AFCEA Homeland Security Conference](#) - Washington, USA
- 25th - 26th February - [National Security Australia](#) - Sydney, Australia

STOP PRESS:- IIPSEC 20ten the annual IP Technology event, has been postponed from February, and is now relocating to London's Earls Court to run alongside the IP Expo on October 20th - 21st 2010

• [DJ's complete listing of Forthcoming CCTV / IP Video Shows and Events](#) •

Just a very quick reminder that I'm planning to close my main sites "6-7-8" banner sponsorship in the very near future, so if you've already expressed an interest in helping to support my work, there's not much time left to take advantage of this particular promotion. As always, please keep your comments and suggestions coming in, and if you have any specific requests for items to be included in 2010, just let me know.



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I hope you found this Newsletter of interest, and if you want to drop me a line with any comments or suggestions, the e-mail address is:- newsdesk@doktorjon.co.uk If you happen to know someone that would like to receive future copies, or if you decide you don't want to receive them, please let me know. Hopefully the next monthly Newsletter is due to be published sometime towards the end of January, so until then, here's wishing you all the best for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year DJ

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