



Greetings from the lofty heights of DJ Towers, well it's perhaps more of a garret to be totally truthful, but hopefully you've had a very good month since last receiving my humble Newsletter. The upgrade to my main site continues apace, although given the amount of updating and new writing being incorporated into the project, I must admit it's taking a bit longer than anticipated. Lots of CCTV newsy stuff to report this month, and as always, if you'd like to catch up on any earlier offerings, they're all available from [the Newsletter archive page](#). Happy reading! DJ.

So what's been making the CCTV News this month?

Well, in the run up to an impending general election here in the UK, as we get used to the idea of plenty of electioneering to come, it's been interesting to read news reports (for example this offering from [ePolitix.com](#)), that Glasgow MP Tom Harris has tabled a proposal for a 'Closed Circuit Television (Monitoring and Promotion) Bill'.

Presented to the House of Commons for a first reading on 27th October, the legislation is intended to address the issues of poor quality CCTV recordings, and the consequential problems of trying to use less than ideal CCTV 'product' as evidence in a court of law. Whilst the Bill has been put forward under the 'ten minute' rule, it's almost certainly going to run out of steam given it's relatively low priority in the great scheme of things, and the restrictions on debating time left available to the House.

It's also been widely reported this month (e.g. [BBC News](#)), that the UK government is carrying out a consultation exercise, to see if the somewhat controversial use of covert and targeted surveillance by Local Authorities, should be reviewed, and if necessary amended or curtailed to take account of growing public concerns, fueled by media reports.

Part of the changes proposed reflect the view that the general public should have more of a say when it comes to setting the direction for future use of video surveillance technology, although it's not yet clear how this would work in practice. As if to underline this position, the



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Local Government Association (LGA) has also been commenting on [council's use of CCTV](#). Having previously written to all Local Authorities suggesting that the use of RIPA legislation (The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) to permit the deployment of covert surveillance to tackle low level Anti Social Behaviour (e.g. dog fouling and littering to name but two), was a less than proportionate response to some everyday problems, this has now been taken a step further. The LGA has put forward a statement suggesting that RIPA may need to be updated, and ongoing use of video surveillance by councils should be in a form that is acceptable to the public. One of their suggestions has been to consider putting members of the public on surveillance scrutiny committee's, and also to raise the rank for authorisation, perhaps to the lofty heights of a senior councillor. There is no doubt that the previous widescale public support for CCTV has been somewhat eroded recently, particularly on the back of a succession of less than positive media reports; but that said, if the technology is seen to be operated efficiently, appropriately, and most importantly effectively, this should help to allay concerns.

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

A bit of a touchy subject - Following alleged pressure from the National Police Agency, the train operators in Tokyo, Japan, are considering installing CCTV cameras on carriages, to deter 'groppers'. Whilst it's been reported that last year alone, the NPA filed over four thousand cases of groping on trains, operators are concerned that installing surveillance cameras may instead create a huge surge in privacy related complaints. - Source - [The Japan Times](#)

Park it ... and walk away! - A hapless motorist has now had time to carefully reflect on what can happen if you're in too much of a hurry to park a car in Central London. Having stopped on double yellow lines, he was spotted by a CCTV Operator running away from the vehicle, parked less than 400 metres from the Prime Ministers residence in Downing Street. When he returned a short while later, his vehicle had been blown up by counter terrorism officers. - Source - [TimesOnline](#)

Shop assistant gets the chop - A 55 year old shop worker was caught stealing money from the till, after her boss became suspicious at the sudden drop in takings. The owner of the butchers shop in Greenock, Scotland, decided to install a covert CCTV camera, which provided clear views of the assistant stuffing bank notes into her pocket, some of which had been specially marked and used by the owners friends to make incriminating test purchases. - Source - [Greenock Telegraph](#)



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

A vision of things to come - Police investigating a murder in Stamford, Lincolnshire, UK. are planning to transmit an image of their main suspect, to mobile phones (cellphones) in the town, using Bluetooth technology. The image was captured using a CCTV camera in a nearby shop, and it's thought that broadcasting the suspects picture to local residents, may significantly increase their chances of identifying the individual. - Source - [BBC News](#)

Not exactly flushed with success - The head teacher of a school in Clane, County Kildare, Eire, has been pressured to remove CCTV cameras from the students toilets. Following a two day protest by both pupils and parents, the principal agreed to remove the cameras which although fitted to help tackle bullying, were actually cited as a breach of privacy. - Source - [Independent.ie](#)

Tell me what you can see ... - News from Chandigarh in India, where the towns CCTV system, first proposed over five years ago, is still not operational despite the equipment having been installed, but left disconnected. Whilst officials from the Engineering Department are suggesting that the first 16 cameras could be working within weeks, the control room is unlikely to be usable for quite some time. As and when the scheme eventually comes online, it is proposed to increase the number of cameras to around 156, in order to cover key areas and parts of the highway network. - Source - [Indian Express.com](#)

Clearly sensible, if you get my drift - The Mayor of Chicago has recently announced plans to make the city's snow clearing operations far more efficient, and CCTV has a vital role to play. Using their extensive network of security cameras, supported by high tech monitoring equipment on the snow clearing vehicles, supervisors can deploy their resources more effectively without requiring as much manpower on the streets. - Source - [Chicago Sun Times](#)

A not so soft centre - Metro Manila in the Philippines has become the latest city to benefit from a 'state of the art' command and control centre. The National Capital Region Police have announced that their Regional Tactical Operation and Intelligence Center (RTOIC), which is currently accepting feeds from cameras located in Manila, Taguig and Paranaque, will eventually receive image streams from up to 2,000 cameras. - Source - [Inquirer.net](#)

Trafficking in cameras - The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has been given access to operate 25 CCTV cameras belonging to the capitals transit authority "Transport for London" (TfL). The street surveillance cameras are normally only used for traffic management purposes, but can now be accessed by the council, alongside their existing borough wide crime fighting camera network. - Source - [London Informer](#)

The people have spoken - In the wake of suggestions that the Town Centre CCTV scheme in Worcester UK may have to be scaled back due to cost cutting, the local MP Mike Foster has carried out a survey of local opinion. Whilst almost 4,000 people responded positively to the survey, 96% of the business that took part also confirmed their desire for the camera scheme to continue to be monitored at all times. - Source - [Berrow's Worcester Journal](#)

They don't need to go there - A recent ruling in a US court, has understandably led to concerns about the amount of time that might in future be spent, on ensuring Forensic Video Analysts are readily available to personally present their findings during court proceedings. Now forensic scientists in Washington County, Arkansas are using video technology to help improve efficiency and save on costs. Rather than having to go to court on a regular basis, experts are now able to testify using a fibre optic based CCTV system, linking the state crime lab directly to the court itself. - Source - [NWAnews.com](#)

At this rate, there won't be any cameras - The year old \$ 14.8 million Public Space Surveillance system being used in Reading, Pennsylvania, is now under threat following a ruling by an examiner working for the states Labour Relations Board. Resulting from a complaint by the police union, the labour ruling directed that civilian operators being paid \$ 10 an hour, should be replaced by sworn police officers costing almost five times as much. Whilst the decision has gone to appeal, officials have warned that budget cuts are already pending, and if the order is upheld the project may well have to be scrapped. - Source - [ReadingEagle.com](#)

Twitching curtains in leafy suburbia - Croydon council has recently announced that it's carrying out a trial to use residential CCTV to help tackle Anti Social Behaviour. The south London Local Authority has supplied each of two houses with a hidden camera, that is used to monitor the street in an effort to identify individuals involved in low level criminality. The cameras which are linked to a laptop computer for recording, can be remotely accessed by either the police or council officials should the need arise. - Source - [Daily Mail](#)



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

But what if - A town council in South Wales, has decided to move forward with installing CCTV in their heritage centre, even though they have no significant crime problems. Llandoverly council are proceeding with plans to acquire some CCTV after the Mayor was quoted as saying " Llandoverly's a safe place, but if we don't have any cameras you can bet your life that some sort of incident will happen". - Source - [South Wales Guardian](#)

When Rights can lead to wrongs - Questions are being asked, after a convicted serial killer managed to commit suicide in the Seoul Detention House. Whilst all high risk prisoners had previously been subject to round the clock surveillance, the CCTV cameras were recently removed following pressure from a human rights organisation that was concerned about an invasion of the inmates privacy. - Source - [Korea Times](#)

Rings bring in the changes - In the final months before the flame is lit at the 2010 Winter Olympics, residents of Vancouver are coming to terms with a big increase in the numbers of Public Space CCTV cameras. The normally privacy protecting Canadians will witness a further 900 cameras being added to the existing 1,200 that currently dot the skyline around the city. Whilst the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are reported to be spending C\$ 1 billion on the overall security operation, the additional cameras are scheduled to be removed after the games close. - Source - [Examiner.com](#)

An illegally acquired taste - A petrol (gas) station convenience store owner in Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, UK, has been forced to stop selling Marmite spread, after a shoplifter stole the entire stock. The thief with a taste for the not so high life, has so far been captured on CCTV stealing a total of 18 jars of the foodstuff, over four separate occasions. - Source - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Video surveillance in a different league - A current 'lab' research project being carried out by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4), will see high resolution video surveillance being evaluated in a range of sport facilities across the US. This is believed to be the only concerted attempt by an academic based group, to evaluate the benefits and suitability of high end video surveillance as a functional security and safety resource, suitable for effectively managing sporting events. - Source - [HattiesburgAmerican](#)

Cameras with just one catch - Upwell Parish Council in Cambridgeshire, UK, have been told by the police that their CCTV equipment is incapable of recording to standards laid down by the Home Office. Councillors have argued that the presence of the cameras has provided some level of deterrence, but they are disappointed that according to local officers, the recorded images are not really fit for purpose. - Source - [Wisbech Standard 24](#)

We're only making plans for - At the recent annual conference of the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Video Association (LEVA), held in Fort Worth, Texas, the Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire Police Graeme Gerrard, gave a keynote speech which highlighted various aspects of the UK's experience in using CCTV over the last couple of decades. Looking ahead to the future, DCC Gerrard explained the need for technical and operational standards to be developed, supported by an effective approach towards routine inspection and regulation. - Source - [Government Video](#)

A shot from the dark - News from South Charleston, USA, where a CCTV technician was accidentally shot whilst repairing a faulty camera. The 36 year old was apparently working on the roof of a department store, when having reached into a small chamber to access the camera's cables, he accidentally touched a hidden gun which went off. - Source - [phillyBurbs.com](#)

Tackling street crime in Africa - The Commissioner of Police for Ondo State, Nigeria has announced that street surveillance cameras have started to be installed in the state's capital Akure. It's reported that this is the first step towards installing CCTV in major towns throughout the region. - Source - [234Next.com](#)

Advice don't come cheap - The City of Columbus in Ohio, US, have set aside \$ 250,000 to pay for a local Security Consultancy to advise on the placement of street surveillance cameras. The Columbus based practice are to receive the remuneration for planning a project, which according to a city official (quoted in some reports), they may not actually be able to afford. - Various sources - [Columbus Local News](#)

Lessons to be learned - The UK's Information Commissioners Office have expressed their concern over the use of CCTV in a primary school run by Salford Council. Police had previously been called by outraged parents, after it was discovered that security cameras were filming the pupils all day, including whilst they were changing for their gym lessons. Although the police decided that no laws had been broken, the ICO's Assistant Commissioner described the council's use of cameras in the school as "unprecedented". - Source - [Manchester Evening News](#)



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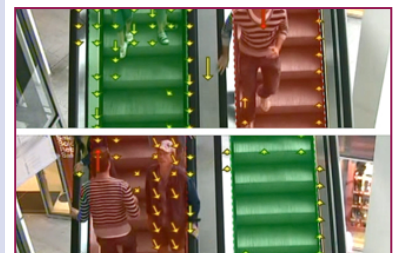
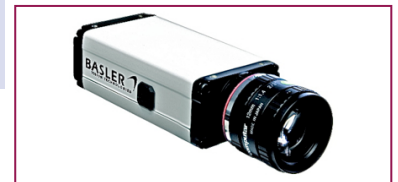
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Given that there's not a huge number of events happening in December, I thought I'd leave out the "Forthcoming Events" Section this month, but if you're absolutely desperate to know what's going on, just **visit my website**. Please keep those comments and suggestions coming in, and if you're interested in supporting my project and helping it develop, I'm currently offering a unique "6-7-8" sponsorship opportunity ... details on request. In the meantime, a huge thanks to all those who have offered to help.

I hope you found this Newsletter of interest, and if you have any ideas for future inclusion, please don't hesitate to drop me a line:- 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 around the third week in December, so until the next time, here's wishing you a great month ahead DJ

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