

A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC CCTV SCHEME

This Code of Practice has been the subject of extensive public consultation. Its aim is to ensure that the principles which will govern the regulation and operation of the Cambridge CCTV system are known to and approved by Cambridge residents.

For all enquiries about the Code of Practice, please telephone Martin Beaumont on (01223) 457441

CODE OF PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge CCTV System has been developed in response to the growth of crime and fear of crime in the city. The sole purpose of the Cambridge CCTV System is to make the city a safer and more welcoming place at any time of the day or night, allowing all citizens and visitors, regardless of age, gender or race, the opportunity to participate fully and without fear in the life of the City.

The CCTV cameras are operated by Cambridge City Council, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ, which, in conjunction with the Police, shares responsibility for the fair and effective operation of all aspects of the CCTV service. A monitor screen has been installed at Police Headquarters at Hinchingsbrooke which will allow the Council Control Room to relay pictures through to the Police.

The Code is also supported by an Operational Manual for staff operating the system. Only officers who are designated in the Schedule have routine access to the system and authority in respect of it as set out. The Operational Manual will be made available as a public document, deleting only those elements which need to remain confidential for security reasons.

The System comprises of a number of colour cameras and is operated from a Control Centre located at the Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ. The pictures from these cameras are recorded and monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All recorded material is the property of Cambridge City Council which retains copyright.

This Code of Practice sets out the aims of the CCTV system and how it will be used. The system will not be used for any other purpose than those set out in this document. The operation of the System will be made accountable to the citizens of Cambridge via Cambridge City Council's Commercial and Human Resources Scrutiny Committee which will monitor its performance and review its effectiveness. The day to day management of the system will be the responsibility of Martin Beaumont, Facilities and CCTV Manager.

1. PURPOSE STATEMENT

1.1 It is important that all those who will be affected by the Cambridge CCTV Scheme and all those charged with operating the service understand exactly why the system has been introduced and what it will and will not be used for. The key objectives of the Cambridge CCTV System are:

- . Protecting areas and premises used by the public;
- . Deterring and detecting crime;
- . Assisting in the identification of offenders leading to their arrest and successful prosecution;
- . Reducing anti-social behaviour and aggressive begging;
- . Reducing fear of crime;
- . Encouraging better use of city facilities and attractions;
- . Maintaining and enhancing the commercial viability of the city and encouraging continued investment.

1.2 **Privacy**

We respect and support the individual's entitlement to go about their lawful business and this is a primary consideration in the operation of the System. Although there is inevitably some loss of privacy when CCTV cameras are installed, cameras will not be used to monitor the progress of individuals in the ordinary course of lawful business in the areas under surveillance. Individuals will only be monitored if there is reasonable cause to suspect that an offence has been or may be committed, as defined by the Operational Manual given to staff.

The Control Centre Operators must only use the cameras to view public areas and not to look into the interior of any private premises or any other area where an infringement of privacy of individuals may occur. The only exception to this rule is if an Operator, whilst operating the cameras in accordance with this, nevertheless happens to observe something which s/he believes indicates that a serious crime is being, or is about to be committed in a non-public area. Any event where an Operator takes a decision positively to view or continue viewing a private area must be entered into the occurrence book. The details must include location, time, date, camera number, tape number and the reason for the observation. Operators will be required to justify their actions. Any breach of this condition of employment will result in disciplinary proceedings and may lead to the dismissal of the Operator.

1.3 **Cameras**

All cameras are sited so that they are clearly visible, except in car parks, where cameras are mounted within protective domes . No hidden cameras will be used, nor will the Scheme utilise any non functioning or "dummy cameras". Although "dummy cameras" can often increase the deterrence value of a CCTV Scheme they can also dangerously mislead the public, who may believe they are in a monitored area when in fact they are not. This could compromise their safety.

Publicity will be given to the system by clear signing within the monitored area. This will ensure that both the maximum deterrent value is achieved and that the public are clearly aware when they are in a monitored area. The System will not record sound in public places.

1.4 Provision of Evidence

Arrangements will be made to provide recorded material to the Police and other local authority departments which may be conducting investigations into potential criminal offences (e.g. racial harassment). Requests may also be made for the release of material by other bodies with prosecution powers such as Customs and Excise, or the Health and Safety Executive. Material will only be released in connection with law enforcement processes.

1.5 Breaches of the Code

Any breach of the Code of Practice is a serious matter. Officers or Control Room staff who are in breach of the Code will be dealt with according to the disciplinary procedures of the City Council, a process which could ultimately result in their dismissal. If an employee/contractor were to misuse the tapes to make a profit for him/herself, the Council would take all possible steps to recover the profit made.

The responsibility for guaranteeing the security of the System will rest with the Facilities and CCTV Manager Martin Beaumont, who will in the first instance investigate all breaches or allegations of breaches of security and report findings to the Director of Central Services and the Council's Internal Ombudsman who will jointly agree a response. If no agreement is reached, the matter will be referred directly to Committee.

In the event of a serious breach Cambridge City Council will request that a person with relevant professional qualifications who is independent of the Scheme undertake an investigation and make recommendations to the Council on how the breach can be remedied.

1.6 Legislation

The Cambridge CCTV Scheme has been registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and will follow the guidelines of the Data Protection Act and the principles of good practice identified by the Information Commissioner (address on last page of this document). In addition, Cambridge City Council's CCTV system will comply with the 1998 Human Rights Act and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act is to ensure that investigatory powers of the intelligence services, the police and other enforcement agencies are used in accordance with the Human Rights Act and Cambridge City Council will ensure that all requests for assistance from the Council's CCTV system under this Act are examined in detail to ensure that they are proportionate, legal, appropriate and necessary. Where any doubts exist, legal advice or advice from the Surveillance Commissioner's Office (address on last page of this document) will be sought before the Council agrees to undertake action under this Act.

1.7 Changes to the Code

Revision and change to the Code of Practice will inevitably occur during the life of the CCTV Scheme, due to evaluation of the Code and developments in the technology used in the Scheme. All major changes to the Code of Practice will be approved by Cambridge City Council's Executive Councillor for Commercial and Human Resources after consideration by the Commercial and Human Resources Scrutiny Committee. If agreed, a new Code of Practice will be produced containing any newly agreed provisions and this New Code will replace all existing old codes which will be withdrawn from public circulation. The Director of Central Services has authority to make minor amendments to the Code of Practice.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

There is a need for a well defined structure of responsibility to the public to maintain public support and confidence in the CCTV System. The Cambridge CCTV Scheme will address this issue in the following way:

- Copies of the Code of Practice as agreed following public consultation will be made available for public inspection at all Council reception points, public libraries and on the City Council's Website;
- The CCTV Scheme will be the subject of a separate Annual Report which will be published at regular yearly intervals for the duration of the Scheme. The Report will assess the impact of the Scheme on crime and fear of crime and include independent assessments of the Scheme's operation as well as information on complaints;
- The Council's formal complaints procedure will be extended to include complaints concerning the operation of CCTV.

3. EVALUATION

Cambridge City Council will be responsible for the evaluation of the Scheme which will be conducted at regular intervals following its introduction. This evaluation will be conducted both internally (Police and City Council staff) and independently (academic institution). The following areas will be examined as part of the evaluation process:

- Assessment of the impact on crime;
- Assessment of neighbouring areas without CCTV (Displacement);
- The views of the public;
- Operation of the Code of Practice.

The costs of the evaluation programme will be built in to the annual running costs of the Scheme and the results of the evaluation, where appropriate, will be published.

4. CONTROL ROOM OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Staff

The Control Room will be operated on a 24 hour basis. Staff are employed by Cambridge City Council and are appointed subject to approved vetting procedures, to ensure their suitability for the work.

Cambridge City Council will ensure that all Operators are trained to a proficient level before they are allowed to take up a position in the Control Room. Training will include:

- Use of equipment;
- Observation techniques;
- City Council procedures and record keeping;
- Report procedures and action on incidents;
- Evidence handling;
- Actions in the event of an emergency;
- The law and crime prevention;
- Operational exercises.

All training will be supervised by a suitably qualified Operator at all times. The Council will also ensure that all Control Room Operators are provided with annual “Refresher Training” to ensure that the highest operating and management standards are maintained. The Council will ensure that training records are maintained for each member of staff employed in the Control Room. The disciplinary procedure will require a “Confidentiality Clause” which prohibits public and private disclosure of information obtained during monitoring. This clause will be effective both during and after staff service on the scheme.

The Council also reserves the right to exclude permanently from the Control Room, and/or require the

dismissal of, any Operator who is in breach of this Code. Staff will be required to provide the Police from time to time with statements required for evidential purposes.

Health and Safety issues regarding the CCTV Control Room, its staff and visitors are covered in detail in Parts 1 and III of these documents.

4.2. Operating Efficiency

The Control Room Duty Operators will daily confirm the operational efficiency of the system and the link to the Police. Any defects will be reported to the Facilities and CCTV Manager Martin Beaumont. They will be logged and remedial action will be taken immediately. A test recording will be made monthly to check tape quality.

At all times there will be at least one person remaining in the Control Room. All use of the cameras shall accord with the purposes and key objectives of the Scheme as developed in training and specific operating instructions to staff, and shall comply with the Code of Practice. Tapes will be reviewed periodically, and without prior notice to staff, by the Facilities and CCTV Manager to ensure that this is happening. Staff will be aware that they will be subject to this audit of their recordings and will be required to justify their interest in a member of the public or particular premises. In the event of an emergency requiring evacuation of the Control Room, procedures will be put into operation to ensure the continued operation and security of the system.

4.3 Access

The Control Room door has an access control system and will remain secured at all times. Routine access to the Control Room will be limited to:

- Duty Operators;
- Designated officers of the Council;
- Designated Police officers;
- Police officers who have been authorised by the Police Duty Officer and by prior arrangement with the Facilities and CCTV Manager or duty Operator;
- Particular arrangements will apply to visitors and contractors as outlined in 4.4 and 4.5 below.

4.4 Visitors

Organised visits for viewing the operation of the system will be arranged from time to time, but these may be subject to change or termination at short notice to meet operational requirements. Operation of equipment will only be carried out by the Duty Operators. All other persons wishing to visit the Control Room must make their request to the Director of Central Services or the Head of Property and Building Services or the Facilities and CCTV Manager.

They may be asked to make their request in writing specifying the reasons for that request.

It is important that operations are managed with the minimum of disruption. Casual visits will not be permitted. All visitors will sign a log detailing their name, company, organisation, and their arrival and departure times. This log will be subject to regular audit and assessed to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice and operating procedures.

4.5 Contractors

Access for contractors will be necessary from time to time for the purpose of maintaining the Control Room and its equipment. This will be limited to that strictly necessary for the work. At no time will contractors be left unattended in the Control Room.

The Facilities and CCTV Manager will check that contractors wishing to gain entry to the Control Room have the authority of the Director of Central Services or the Head of Property and Building Services or the Facilities and CCTV Manager. All contractors visits will be logged.

4.6 Police

The Police should not require access to the Control Room unless specifically designated or authorised. Police officers attending unexpectedly shall only be admitted after the purpose of the visit has been approved by contact with the Duty Officer at the City Police Station. Their attendance will be logged.

4.7 Control Room Operation

There must always be at least one Operator present within the Control Room. An Occurrence Book will be maintained on the basis of date and time of day throughout operation. It will give brief details of all incidents monitored and show all relevant actions taken by Operators.

A Visitor Log will be maintained in the Control Room which all visitors will be required to complete. The entry will show the time, duration, date and intended purpose of the visit. A Video Tape Register will be maintained. A Register of all Photographic Prints will be maintained.

4.8 Communications and Control

A monitor is installed in the Control Room at Police Headquarters at Hinchbrook. Pictures from any of the cameras may be relayed to this monitor at the instigation of the controllers or at the request of the Duty Police Operator. The Police have no direct control of any cameras nor images relayed to their monitor. A dedicated two-way voice link with the Police Control Room is provided for communication. The link will only be used for official purposes. Emergency procedures will be used in appropriate cases to call or liaise with fire, ambulance or other emergency services.

5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE SYSTEM

5.1 **Direction**

Operation of the system is the responsibility of the Director of Central Services. The system is directed towards providing a safer environment for the community. The Council will use the system for:

- . Day to day monitoring of the surveillance area;
- . The security of Council premises, land and street furniture;
- . Monitoring premises using cameras and alarms owned by third parties under appropriate agreements.

5.2 **Police Role**

The control of the cameras and monitoring is in the hands of the Control Room staff only. The Police may request assistance in order to:

- . Assist with the deployment of resources;
- . Monitor potential public disorder or other major security situations;
- . Assist in the detection of crime;
- . Facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public order;
- . Assist with the detection of moving traffic offences where it is considered that the public safety is at risk.

Such requests will usually arise after the Police have been contacted by the Duty Operator. In these circumstances the Police Duty Operator may request the Duty Operator to take further action. In circumstances when problems are anticipated, arrangements may be made for a Police Officer to be present within the CCTV Control Room for liaison purposes. This will normally apply for the duration of the incident and will be subject to the arrangements made by the Police Duty Officer. On each occasion a record must be made in the Occurrence Book.

5.3 **Major Incidents**

Use of the CCTV System will be integrated into the Council's Emergency Planning Procedures during major civil emergencies. If required, the Chief Executive or his deputy will authorise the deployment of a Liaison Officer from the major civil emergencies team into the CCTV Control Room. The Duty Operator(s) will give assistance and technical advice as required in all matters concerning the deployment and use of the facilities within the CCTV Control Room.

5.4 Third Party Equipment

The Council may monitor pictures from cameras installed by third parties subject to the making of the necessary formal agreements and the acceptance by third parties of this Code of Practice. Designated persons will have access to the Control Room by prior appointment only and such visits will be strictly for the purpose of reviewing the operation of their own equipment. Attendance will be closely supervised at all times and equipment will continue to be operated by the Duty Operators. Access to video tapes is detailed in the following section.

6. CONTROL OF VIDEO RECORDINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

6.1 Video Recording

Recorded materials may need to be submitted as evidence in criminal proceedings and therefore must be of good quality, and be accurate in content. All such material will be treated in accordance with strictly defined procedures to provide continuity of evidence and to avoid contamination of the evidence.

The Control Room system is supported by permanent video tape recording for all cameras . A library of tapes will be maintained which is sufficient for the purpose of the scheme including supply of spare tapes to replace those removed for evidential purposes. Recorded material will not be sold or used for commercial purposes or the provision of entertainment.

The showing of recorded material to the public will only be allowed in accordance with the law; either in compliance with the needs of Police in connection with the investigation of a crime, which will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Code of Practice, or in any other circumstances provided by law.

In certain circumstances tapes may be retained or copied for training, demonstration or evidential purposes. All other routine recordings will be retained for 31 days and then erased before re-use in accordance with defined operating procedures. Details of all reviewing of videotapes will be recorded in the Video Tape Register.

The Council retains copyright of the tapes and would use this to restrain unauthorised use of them. This would remain the case even if the monitoring were being carried out by contractors.

6.2 Control of Tapes

All tapes will remain the property of the Council. Each new tape must be clearly and uniquely marked before it is brought into operation.

At each use the identification number of the tape, date, time of insertion and time of removal shall be noted in the Register. Between uses tapes will be filed in a secure cabinet inside the Control Room in such a way that completeness of the archive is immediately apparent. The Tape Register will be stored in a secure place.

Except for evidential, training and demonstration purposes tapes containing recordings must not be removed from the Control Room under any circumstances. All tapes will be erased prior to disposal.

6.3 Access to Tapes

The principal external source of requests for access to tapes is expected to be from the Police. Police requests may be dealt with by the Duty Operators. Other requests for access, such as for monitoring traffic flows, must be made in writing to the Director of Central Services, specifying the reasons for the request. Such reviewing must be directly supervised at all times.

Access to tapes by third parties will not normally be allowed except where a formal agreement is in force relating to monitoring of third party cameras. There may be circumstances in which the Council is subject to a court order to release tapes in connection with civil disputes. These cases are likely to be unusual, but the Council would be unable to refuse to release material in these circumstances. Access to video tape or still image evidence for lawyers acting for defendants or victims in connection with criminal proceedings will be provided under the Disclosure of Evidence Act by either the Police or the Crown Prosecution Service.

There may be a request under the Data Protection Act or the Freedom of Information Act to allow individuals to see or be informed about any data held about them. Since data is only stored for a maximum of 31 days, it is vital that such requests are made in writing to the City Council's Information Management Officer (address on the last page of this document) as quickly as possible, but in any event within 21 days to allow the relevant data to be held. The applicant will then be sent the necessary form to be filled in and returned so that their request can be met.

No other access will be allowed unless approved by the Director of Central Services for reasons which fall within the purposes and objectives of the Scheme and in accordance with the Code of Practice.

6.4 Videotaping of Pictures from Third Party Cameras

Where a formal agreement for third party monitoring is in force, routine access to tapes will not be allowed. Applications to review tapes must be made in writing to the Director of Central Services specifying the reasons for the request. Third party recordings will be dealt with in the same way as other recordings.

6.5 Copying of Tapes

Except for training, demonstration and evidential purposes tapes may not be copied in whole or in part.

6.6 Evidential Tapes

Tapes required for evidence will be dealt with in accordance with The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). A record will be made in the Video Tape Register of the release of tapes to the Police or to other authorised applicants. Tapes may only be removed from the Control Room by an authorised officer to a secure store.

Under these circumstances a copy of the complete tape will be made by the Duty Operator and secured in the 'Evidence Locker' within the Control Room. This will ensure the completeness of the archive for the specified period. Such tapes will be clearly marked as duplicates and will show the time and date of the original recording and of the copying. These duplicates may be retained for a longer period than normal, if required. Tapes provided to the Police shall at no time be used for anything other than the purposes for which they were originally released.

6.7 Video Still Images

The Control Room will contain a facility for taking still images from live video footage. The taking and retention of these still images will be subject to strict controls. All still images remain the property of Cambridge City Council which retains copyright.

Still image prints must only be used to assist the identification of incidents, during staff training and for demonstration purposes. Images for operational use will only be produced at the request, or on the authorisation of the Police Case Officer or a designated officer of the Council for:

- Police or operational purposes; or
- Training; or
- Demonstration purposes during organised visits to the Control Room.

Still Images required for Police or operational use will be uniquely marked, securely filed and the numbers recorded in the Still Images Register. All still images will be destroyed after 31 days and the register marked accordingly unless made the subject of an application by the Police or are required as evidence.

Still Images produced for training purposes will be clearly marked as such and will be destroyed as soon as possible after use and within 31 days of their production. Still Images produced for demonstration purposes, will be destroyed as soon as possible after the event and within 31 days of production.

The use of photographs for briefing camera operators should be conducted strictly in accordance with advice from the Police to avoid contamination of evidence. Unless otherwise advised by the Police, photographs:

- Should not be on display;
- Should only be retained if provided by the Police for this purpose;
- Should be seen only by individuals stipulated by the Police.

7. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

7.1 Review

CCTV Operations will be subject to regular review against the objectives of the Scheme. A core set of criteria has been agreed, and information will be collected at regular intervals measuring progress against them. Improvements to operating procedures will be made as soon as they are identified.

7.2 Reports

An Annual Report on the operation of the system will be published. It will be open to public inspection and comment. The Report will include details of trend analysis, especially where displacement of crime is suspected. We will use all available information from the Police and retailers about vandalism and shoplifting.

The Report will also detail the number of complaints received concerning the operation of the CCTV system and contain recommendations for improvements to this Code of Practice. Reports will be made to the Home Office as appropriate.

8. COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

8.1 Comments

Comments on the scheme may be addressed to the Director of Central Services who has operational responsibility for the scheme.

8.2 Complaints

Formal complaints about the operation of the system should be addressed to the Director of Central Services (her address is on the last page of this document) as soon as possible after the incident or action causing the complaint. They will be dealt with in accordance with the City Council's formal complaints procedure.

8.3 Addresses

Contact addresses are:

Margaret Walker
Director of Central Services
Cambridge City Council
The Guildhall
Cambridge CB2 3QJ

Tel: 01223 457301
Fax: 01223 457309

Chief Supt David Southern
Southern Divisional Commander
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Parkside Police Station
Parkside
Cambridge CB1 1JG

Tel: 01223 358966
Fax: 01223 300380

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545700
Fax: 01625 524510

John Cowin
Head of Property and Building Services
Cambridge City Council
The Guildhall
Cambridge CB2 3QJ

Tel: 01223 457431
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Anne Melia
Information Management Officer
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Surveillance Commissioner
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Website: www.cambridge.gov.uk/howeare/dpspage.htm

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