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National CCTV Strategy Programme Board

Meeting Number 8

13th July 2009

Attendees

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) – CCTV Lead and Senior responsible Officer (SRO)
British Security Industry Authority (BSIA)
British Transport Police (BTP)
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB)
Information Commissioner's Office
Local Government Association (LGA)
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
Metropolitan Police Service -Olympics
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)
Public CCTV Managers Association (PCMA)

1) Introduction

Apologies were received from:

Home Office
Department for Transport

2) Minutes and Actions from previous meeting

2.1 Agreement of the Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the Programme Board number 7 held on 3rd April 2009 were accepted,

2.2 Review of Actions

07-01 The CPS raised the issue of governance and cited work relating to the Crime Reduction Delivery Board (CRDB) strategy commissioned in September 2005, the CDRB was abolished in May 2006 predating the publication of the National CCTV Strategy in October 2007, it is of concern that although the National CCTV Strategy is endorsed by the Policing minister it is has not been formally shared with or adopted by Criminal Justice Ministers, this may cause difficulty in the future if funding or reprioritisation within the areas of criminal justice are required.

Hold over to next meeting

07-02 Subgroup Chairs were asked to make "Best Guesstimates" on when their assigned Recommendations could be delivered as the Programme Team need to respond to the Policing Minister's request for urgent progress to be made on the Strategy

Close

07-03 The question of Mapping Details being requested under a Freedom of Information Request was raised and whilst it is not an issue saying that CCTV Operates in an area, there will be instances where the specific location and view angle of cameras should not be disclosed.

Close Response:

The ICO has not produced specific guidance on this issue but below is a link to our guidance note on Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act, the law enforcement exemption, which you may find helpful.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/detailed_specialist_guides/section_31_law_enforcement_13_oct_06_v2.pdf

When it comes to responding to requests for information about the exact location of CCTV cameras, the onus will be on each local authority to decide whether releasing the information would prejudice, or would be likely to prejudice, the prevention or detection of crime. Section 31 is a qualified exemption which means that even if the public authority decides that the information is exempt, they must then consider whether it is in the public interest to disclose it. This public interest test can only be applied on a case by case basis.

When striking the balance of public interest, the public authority has to consider whether, and to what extent, the information has already been released in to the public domain. As the Assistant Information Commissioner indicated at our meeting in January, it would be difficult to deny information about the location of cameras where this information had already been widely publicised. An authority, for example, may decide to disclose information about camera locations where they are widely known but have real and genuine concerns that releasing information such as the precise location of some more covert cameras, and details of camera angles and frequency of use etc would prejudice the prevention of crime and it would not be in the public interest to disclose it.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, decisions made not to disclose the information are open to challenge. Applicants can ask the ICO to review the decision and ultimately this could be a matter for the courts.

07-04 Mention was made of the Community Engagement Programme – this could be a good route for getting the message about CCTV out into the wider public view

This Programme is now closed.

3) National CCTV Strategy Recommendations

3.1 Establishment of a national CCTV body

Although this subgroup has not officially been formed and is reliant on direction for the future, it has consulted widely with Stakeholders regarding the objectives of a National body.

3.2 Police Use of CCTV

The current focus of the group is on Training (2010 deliverable) and also looking at what research can be undertaken to answer the question “*What is the contribution of CCTV to the investigation and detection of crime?*” Looking at a Pilot in Cheshire to see what issues we may face in gathering this detail. The Programme Support Team also need to understand the Life Cycle of a Crime

Action 08-01

NCS Team to meet with Cheshire Constabulary to discuss the “Lifecycle of a Crime” and look at where decision points come in terms of progressing an arrest.

Discussions took place around the British Crime Survey, the deterrent factor of CCTV (in terms of prolific offenders), the displacement of crime and the impact of 7/7 & 21/7 all of which could have a bearing on the research.

One other Recommendation that this subgroup is looking to deliver this year is Rec 31 - Establish the effectiveness of CCTV networks by running pilot projects

3.3 Facilities in the CJS

The HMCS are issuing protocols regarding what individual Courts have in terms of digital media capabilities and the CPS are planning to roll out better DVD facilities to desktop PCs.

Issue: Encryption of CCTV digital media

From a CPS Central perspective CCTV Images do not need to be encrypted

The Board are aware of some Forces going down the route of encrypting CCTV product for Court presentation, the danger here is that different Forces will use differing methods of encryption which in turn will lead to further difficulties in replaying the evidence in Court.

Action 08-02

HOSDB / ICO / CPS look at what guidance can be given with regard to the question of Encryption.

This may require a Working Group to look at this as a priority.

- 1) Need to detail what advice there is on Mobile Data and the definition of this when it comes to CCTV Images
- 2) If Encryption is a definite need, it must be to common Standards that align with any ICO guidance

3.4 Standards & Operability

Work is progressing on Rec 14 (CCTV should be considered as an element of planning and licensing applications) looking at the Licensing element and developing Best Practice Guidance to address the required Standards for Licensed Premises and Small Shops.

Recommendation 6 could possibly be delivered in 2009 (Establish technical requirements that will allow CCTV cameras to be used for multiple purposes) – this would focus on the technical requirement for the Cameras rather than the wider debate on transmission and interoperability – these would be additional requirements for future recommendations to consider.

Recommendation 18 (Image retention periods should be standardised and relate to the operational purpose of the CCTV system) this is a 2009 deliverable. The MPS asked to see this tested from an operational perspective.

HOSDB have now developed Test Targets for CCTV systems and are working on test footage that can be used to test the quality of DVD recorders.

3.5 Partnership Working

Potential make up of this Group has been identified and participants polled.

The PCMA are working with the CCTV User Group on KPIs and are considering engaging a Consultant to work with them in this area.

A number of individuals from the CCTV Users Group have been invited to join the Partnership Working Subgroup, the CUG are represented on the Police Use of CCTV subgroup & the User Group has engagement with the Standards & Operability Subgroup

4) Strategy update and the formation of a national CCTV oversight body

An update was provided on the current situation regarding the draft submission and model. Awaiting the Home secretary's views on Privacy and Surveillance. Emphasised that we need to continue working on the delivery of the Recommendations.

5) Communications & website update

The National CCTV Strategy website has now been updated, working on a version for the NPIA internally so that staff within the NPIA can see what has been achieved.

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cctv/index.htm>

Comments were made that whilst the new website is an improvement, some of the information contained within it needs to be brought to a higher level.

Action 08-03

NSC Programme Administrator to examine what changes are required to make the information contained within this site more accessible.

Media messages are being developed in preparation for any announcement and work will start on CCTV case studies, which can feed into Frequently Asked Questions.

The National Strategy we need to get more information out to the CCTV Community telling them what is being done.

6) Any other business

6.1 Publication of redacted minutes.

There were no objections to redacted minutes being published

Action 08-04

Programme Administration to circulate redacted minutes to Programme Board attendees for review and comment. Turnaround should be within 10 days

6.2 Register of Board Members Interests

There were no objections to the proposal that Board members should declare any external interests that they may have regarding CCTV.

Action 08-05

Programme Administration to circulate Register to Programme Board attendees for completion and return within two weeks

6.3. Sign-off of Recommendations

A detailed paper will be required by the National CCTV Strategy Board for the sign-off of each Recommendation. The paper will need to cover who has been consulted. Over what period of time, what conclusions have been arrived at and what are the impacts of introducing the Recommendation.

Where legislative change or public expenditure is required as a result of a Recommendation, this needs to be explicitly detailed how such a change can be enforced and, in the case of public expense, what cost could be involved.

In the event of objections being raised regarding the evidence to support a Recommendation, this will need to be taken to the full Programme Board for further discussion.

Recommendation 18 (Image retention periods should be standardised and relate to the operational purpose of the CCTV system), needs to have the detail of how the 14 / 31 retention timescales were agreed.

Action 08-06

ACPO CCTV Working Group, HOSDB & the ICO to supply detail of how these timeframes were agreed.

The Board asked that all Recommendations that have already been signed off be reviewed against the above criteria.

Action 08-07

Programme Administration to circulate completed Recommendations to owners for detail to be added. This should be completed within the next month

6.4. MPS Olympics

The Board were asked if there was any value in the MPS Olympics team briefing the National CCTV Strategy Board on future developments – general consensus was yes, this would be worthwhile

7) Date of next Programme Board Meeting - Friday 25th September 2009