



The National CCTV
Strategy Board

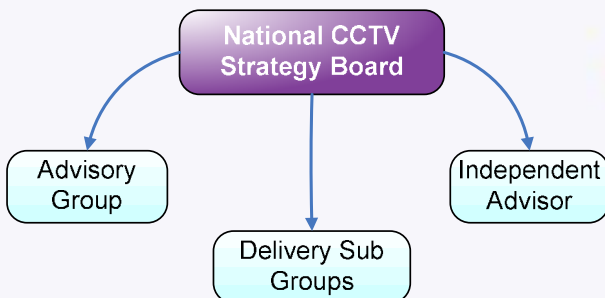


Home Office

Briefing 15.12.09

national **CCTV Oversight body**

National CCTV Oversight Body



This body will:

- develop national standards for the installation and use of CCTV in public space
- determine training requirements for users and practitioners
- engage with the public and private sector in determining the need and potential content of any regulatory framework
- raise public awareness and understanding of how CCTV operates and the benefits to tackling crime and public protection
- review the existing recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy and advising the Strategy Board on implementation, timelines and cost and development of an effective evidence base
- promote public awareness of the complaints process and criteria for complaints to the relevant agencies (e.g. Information Commissioner, local authority, private organisation etc) and dealing with complaints relating to technical standards.

announcement of the appointment of the National CCTV Oversight Body and interim CCTV Regulator

The Policing Minister, David Hanson, announced today the establishment of an Oversight Body which enables the current National CCTV Strategy Board to become more delivery focused. This will be supported by an Independent Advisory Group and sees the appointment of an interim CCTV Regulator who will be responsible for raising public awareness, defining standards and establish a means to deal with complaints from the public about CCTV.

For more information please contact:

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See our website:

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



the interim CCTV Regulator

The interim CCTV Regulator will, over the next 12 months, review the CCTV landscape and draft recommendations to Ministers on how the regulation of CCTV should be taken forward in future years. The Regulator will provide guidance on standards around the use of CCTV, image quality, training and raising public awareness about how and why CCTV is used. The Regulator will also establish a structure for complaints to be considered appropriately.

what has been delivered in the last year

Key successes to date include:

- the establishment of an Oversight Body, an Independent Advisory Group and the appointment of an interim CCTV Regulator
- enabling the potential implementation of the 17 Recommendations by the end of this year
- complete upgrade of the Crime Reduction website for CCTV <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cctv/index.htm> which now includes frequently asked questions and good practice guides
- given 64 briefings and presentations to Government Agencies, both nationally and internationally, on the Strategy and the work that the NPIA has done to move it forward
- answered 20 Parliamentary Questions on CCTV.

For further information on CCTV please visit the CCTV website on the link above.





the **Written Ministerial Statement** continued....

Minister of State for the Home Department (David Hanson): I am today announcing the arrangements we are putting in place to progress implementation of the National CCTV Strategy published in 2007. The changes I am outlining are aimed at ensuring that those involved across the CCTV industry, whether from the public or the private sector, can be actively involved in the development and implementation of national standards on the installation and use of CCTV. Importantly, it also aims to maximise public engagement by raising public awareness of the benefits of CCTV and public accountability of owners and users of CCTV systems.

CCTV enjoys a high level of public confidence in tackling crime. Home Office research published in 2005 showed that over 80% of respondents supported the use of CCTV to deal with crime in their neighbourhood. [A similar high level of confidence is reflected in the IPSOS MORI poll conducted last year and which we will be publishing shortly.] It is important that we retain and enhance that high level of public confidence and that we do that by ensuring that CCTV continues to make an important contribution to preventing and detecting crime and anti-social behaviour. We have already announced in Building Britain's Future that we will make sure that local people have a say about CCTV in their area and will be publishing guidance to crime and disorder reduction partnerships next year on communicating with their community on the key elements of CCTV.

Today, though, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator as the Interim CCTV Regulator. As indicated, this will be an interim appointment and will be for a period of up to 12 months. The appointment is an important step in implementation of the National CCTV Strategy. The role of the interim Regulator will be to work with the National CCTV Strategy Board on six key areas. These are to:

- develop national standards for the installation and use of CCTV in public space;
- determine training requirements for users and practitioners;
- engage with the public and private sector in determining the need and potential content of any regulatory framework;
- raise public awareness and understanding of how CCTV operates and the benefits to tackling crime and public protection;
- review the existing recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy and advising the Strategy Board on implementation, timelines and cost and development of an effective evidence base;
- promote public awareness of the complaints process and criteria for complaints to the relevant agencies (e.g. Information Commissioner, local authority, private organisation etc) and dealing with complaints relating to technical standards.





the **Written Ministerial Statement** continued....

There are several key aspects of the role. Firstly, the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator brings the expertise, knowledge, and standing he has gained in establishing a suitable framework for the monitoring and control of forensic sciences. That experience will be applied to CCTV and provide an independent voice to play a leading role in identifying and help meet the needs of both users and the public. It is essential that we take forward the setting and application of national standards with the confidence of manufacturers, suppliers and installers and that the public has confidence on how those standards operate in practice.

Another key role for the Interim CCTV Regulator will be to provide those agencies with responsibility for the operation of CCTV, whether public or private, to have in place suitable and open processes for handling complaints and concerns from members of the public. The Interim CCTV Regulator will not have responsibility for the sighting of cameras or how they are used. It will be his responsibility to help set national standards but the responsibility of owners and users of cameras will remain to ensure compliance with existing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any future standards developed. The focus of the Interim Regulator will be on dealing with complaints around standards but another active task will be to help explain to the public how they can complain about intrusive or ineffective CCTV placement or usage.

Part of the process of promoting greater accountability is engaging directly with key stakeholders. We will shortly be establishing an Independent Advisory Group with representatives from business, CCTV operators, community and third sector groups to monitor and provide direction on implementing the national strategy. The Advisory Group will advise the Interim Regulator and the National CCTV Strategy Board.

The interim CCTV Regulator will advise the Government on matters surrounding the use of CCTV in public places, including the need for a regulatory framework which enables the police, local authorities and other agencies to help deliver safer neighbourhoods and which encourages shops and businesses to set up whilst ensuring that there are sufficient protection and safeguards. The Interim CCTV Regulator will advise Ministers on the need for such a framework and how such a structure might look, including the need for a permanent CCTV Regulator. Such issues are, I believe, a matter for Parliament. That is why we are, at this stage, considering the regulatory arrangements function through an interim appointment and the revised governance structure for implementation of the national CCTV strategy.

