



Welcome to my first Newsletter of 2010, and I hope you had a suitably festive and thoroughly enjoyable holiday break, well away from any mention of security cameras and the like. Traditionally, journalists would have us believe that the middle months are most commonly associated with "silly season", and yet the sheer volume of this months surveillance related news stories, and indeed the occasionally mind numbing daftness of some reports, does lead me to consider the distinct possibility that alongside global warming, our seasons appear to be shifting. Could be worse, there's always my [Newsletter archive](#), to look back on with fond memories ... happy reading! D.J.

So what's been making the CCTV news, thus far this year?

It's strange how like London buses, topics of interest often come along in three's, and so it is this month with a trio of issues that go some way towards demonstrating, where a little CCTV knowledge can be a dangerous thing. First off, there was a report in the [Horse and Hound](#) magazine, which I must confess I never in a million years expected to be referencing, on issues relating to video surveillance. Well according to the story, a judge has ruled that groups like the League Against Cruel Sports, are no longer allowed to routinely video the activities of people following a hunt, unless they have first applied to the police for authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA 2000). Given that this specific piece of legislation was originally drafted to control 'authorities' use of targeted covert surveillance, it does raise a number of questions about how genuinely well intentioned law, can inadvertently result in a tangible degree of mission creep, in areas never previously imagined. In a similar vein, [this story from the Telegraph](#) does take a literal almost comical interpretation of legislation, to previously unforeseen heights. For almost 40 years, video door entry systems have been used to help control access to premises right across the land, and indeed across the world. Now it appears that the legal eagles at Birmingham City Council, have decided that allowing residents of their tower blocks in the Druids Heath area of the city, free access to images of people waiting to enter their building, may be akin to a legal minefield. Apparently the lawyers have ruled that the equipment will have to be



turned off ('to fall in line with government regulations'), simply because the systems may breach the human rights of those caught on camera, if anyone decided to record the pictures. To further compound the issue, the council officers have also been led to the conclusion that the use of this equipment is in breach of the Data Protection Act (DPA). Now apart from the fact that residential CCTV is specifically excluded from the DPA under Section 36, it does suggest the possibility that officers may be more concerned with questionable political correctness, rather than the safety and security of their tenants. I mentioned a trio of issues and so it is with this last case. As it happens, I routinely receive contact from various members of the public, often driven to distraction by the misguided officiousness of some local authority officers, who believe they know all that there is to know about CCTV. In the last couple of days, I've had a message from a gent in London, whose family have been subject to their neighbours ongoing Anti Social Behaviour for around four years. Now his Local Authority have given him 7 days formal notice to remove the small domestic CCTV camera that helps protect his car and property from vandalism. Apparently according to the council's officers, the fact that it is capable of overlooking a public footpath, would infringe the civil liberties of those caught on camera, even though the self same camera has already provided the police with evidence of a recorded knife incident. What a strange Section 36 world we live in ...

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

- 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
- 1st - 3rd March - [ISNR Abu Dhabi](#) - Abu Dhabi
- 2nd - 4th March - [Intersec Central Asia](#) - Almaty - Kazakhstan
- 2nd - 5th March - [Security Show](#) - Tokyo, Japan
- 2nd - 5th March - [SICUR 2010](#) - Madrid, Spain

Event News:- IIPSEC 20ten is now relocating to London's Earls Court on October 20th - 21st 2010
UBM Montgomery announce the launch of IFSEC West Africa to be held in Lagos - February 2011

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



'VIPER' CCTV Performance Evaluation Reports



The 'TRUSTED' CCTV Improvement Project



DJ's CCTV / IP Video Forum



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

Still watching the detectives - Prison authorities have installed CCTV cameras in the National Police Detention Centre in Salemba, Central Jakarta. Whilst around a dozen units had been fitted to try and tackle broad ranging problems concerned with corruption amongst some guards working at the prison, additional cameras have also been fitted inside offices used by detectives. - Source - [The Jakarta Post](#)

In search of cold hard facts - News from Aurora, Illinois, USA, where a 41 year old businessman was blinded in one eye, after a large chunk of ice detached from the roof of a passing 'big rig' truck, and crashed through his vehicles windscreen as he was driving. The seriously injured motorist has now sought legal action to obtain access to the CCTV recordings from a huge FedEx depot nearby, where it's thought the truck involved may have been based. - Source - [Chicago Sun-Times](#)

Canadians concerned with cameras - According to Professor David Lyon of the "Surveillance Camera Awareness Network" at Queens University in Ontario, Canada, "There is little or no evidence that surveillance deters crime". The just published final part of a two stage ["Report on Camera Surveillance in Canada"](#) takes a broad look at the subject, and highlights a need for public concern; according to Professor Lyon, " ... We need to question the social ethics of surveillance footage as well as establish legal limits on how the footage can be used". - Source - [Science Daily](#)

He didn't bank on that ... - A man from Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa, has been charged with a range of offences including murder, after he was caught numerous times on a banks CCTV system in close proximity to the councillor victim, who hasn't been seen since. The accused was considerate enough to get himself video recorded in close up detail, as he made cash withdrawals at an ATM, using the victims bank cards. With mounting evidence against the accused, bail has been refused. - Source - [The Sowetan](#)

Street view or deja vu? - Moscow Police have arrested a businessman on charges of fraud, after it was discovered that his company, which was contracted to provide them with live feeds from numerous street surveillance cameras, had instead been streaming pre recorded video for five months, to cover up the fact that the CCTV cameras were not working - Source - [Moscow Times](#)

Dipping in to the recordings - An officer working for the City of Cape Town's Metro police, has been arrested for stealing a colleague's wallet, whilst working in the force's CCTV Control Room. The incident was captured on camera, although the accused did not have access to the area where video recordings are stored, and so would not have been able to delete the incriminating footage. - Source - [Independent Online / Cape Times](#)

Roll up, roll up - The Hillsborough County Sheriff's department in Florida, is planning to hold a number of public meetings, to demonstrate and explain to their citizens where and how the public space camera scheme will be operating. The system which is due to go live in the next couple of months, has been paid for using a \$1m grant from the US Department of Justice - Source - [Tampa Bay Online / Northeast News & Tribune](#)

The Lord is not leaping to conclusions - UK Government Home Office Minister, Lord West of Spithead, decided to court the views of commuters on London's Underground train network, to see what they think of CCTV. When questioned in the House of Lords, he reported that in general, passengers told him they felt more secure, and that as such, the cameras "... have a very real value" - Source - [UK Parliament](#)

Cameras afloat in a big way - The world's largest cruise liner, Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, isn't just huge in displacement, it's also jam packed with vast quantities of cutting edge technology. To ensure the safety of almost 8,500 passengers and crew, the ship has been fitted with 1,100 networked IP cameras, some of which are installed in the dining areas, allowing video analytics to monitor and report on footfall, and highlight which restaurants are busy at key times. - Source - [SF Gate](#)

Fast and furious food - A frustrated customer went berserk on camera, when her 'cheeseburger snack wrap' was served up to her as a regular cheeseburger. Having been refused a refund, she reacted furiously, causing around \$ 3,000 worth of damage to a McDonalds eatery in Kansas City. Police subsequently released the two minute video of her trail of destruction, and acting on a tip off, later found her hiding at home in a closet - Source - [Kansas City.com](#)

Hail the cameras - Officials in Seoul City Hall are planning to clamp down on errant taxi drivers that pick and choose which passengers they want to carry. Advanced plans are in place to start installing CCTV in the city's taxi's to make sure all drivers adhere to the strict but previously unenforced rules. - Source - [The Korea Times](#)

Not exactly plug and play - In the face of financial cutbacks across the school network, parents of pupils in the Montgomery County Schools district in Maryland, USA, are questioning the wisdom of placing a high value contract with an individual security consultant. It's expected that the school board will approve a contract valued at almost \$ 125k, to be awarded to a lone consultant tasked with overseeing the commissioning of a network based video surveillance system . - Source - [WJLA News Channel8](#)



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

Sun, sea, sand and surveillance - Authorities in Suva, Fiji have advanced their plans to install 52 cameras throughout the city at an estimated cost of \$ 100,000. It's hoped that supporters of the Crime Free Suva Project will help to contribute towards the cost of deploying the cameras. - Source - Fijivillage.com

Plane stupid airport security breach - Chaos reigned at Newark Airport in the US, when an unidentified male managed to slip past security and wander around airside without having passed through any security checks. The individual who was later identified as a chinese student, had waited for a TSA guard to leave his post, then walked against a stream of passengers moving through the hall, to bid farewell to his girlfriend. Somewhat embarrassingly for the airport authorities, it's been reported that none of their security cameras were functioning properly, and investigators had instead to gather recordings from an airlines independent camera system. - Source - NorthJersey.com

Caught with his trousers down - A prison guard from Alleghany County Jail in Pennsylvania, USA, has been charged with numerous offences, following allegations of serious sexual assault against a female prisoner. The prison authorities were able to establish that an incident did take place, after reviewing the jail's video surveillance recordings. The guard who has been employed since 2004, has subsequently been fired from his job, and formally indicted on a range of charges. - Source - Pittsburgh Post Gazette

When noise annoys a neighbour - A desperate couple from Northampton, UK, who were subjected to almost a year of constant Anti Social Behaviour by their neighbours, eventually managed to record 206 incidents for evidence, using their home's CCTV system. Their Neighbours from Hell actually caused so much harassment that apart from wearing out the couples video recorder, they were eventually evicted from the next door property, and are now subject to a police application for Anti Social Behaviour Orders. - Source - The Sun

A bike delivery that wasn't ordered - Carabinieri police are investigating a firebomb attack on the court house in Reggio Calabria in southern Italy which is believed to have been carried out by the 'Ndrangheta mafia. The entire incident was captured on the courts CCTV system, and clearly showed the bomber arriving as a pillion passenger on a scooter driven by a female accomplice. The suspect placed the fiery device just seconds before it exploded, in what is thought to be a revenge attack following recent police successes against the secretive and highly organised group, which is believed to control much of Europe's estimated £ 32 billion cocaine market. - Source - Mail Online

Specialists have success in the project - In one night, two separate crimes were solved in a Harlem housing project, after a specialist police unit used video surveillance to identify and arrest the suspects. Following a report of a knife attack, which later turned out to be the tragic murder of a 9 year old boy, sharp eyed officers spotted an individual who was subsequently identified as the killer. Less than an hour later, a male suspect was observed abusing a small dog in an elevator, and he has since been charged with torturing and injuring the animal. - Source - New York Post

Camera's go up, crime goes down - It's been reported that across the United States, crime rates are at their lowest since the 1960's. The homicide rate in Los Angeles alone has dropped by around 19% this year, with criminologists citing surveillance cameras as a possible factor which may have contributed to the downturn. - Source - ABC 7 / KABC-TV Los Angeles

Combing the records for evidence - It's been reported that a 22 year old male has been arrested in Milwaukie, Oregon, USA, on suspicion of being the "TriMet Barber", a mysterious attacker who targeted a number of lone woman on local buses, and then either cut or super glued their hair. Each incident has apparently been caught by the vehicles on board security cameras, and the accused is now awaiting trial. - Source - KATU.com

A step in the right direction? - The City Police in Phuket, Thailand are planning to employ disabled volunteers to monitor the city's video surveillance system. Unfortunately, with the CCTV Control Room located on the fourth floor of the police station, and no lifts in the building, plans to recruit teams of nine people per shift to monitor the screens, may prove slightly more challenging than originally thought. - Source - Phuket Gazette

Signalling the changes - It's been revealed that out of 165 cameras being used for traffic monitoring in the indian city of Bangalore, 35 are not working for a large part of the day due to connectivity issues. Whilst the technology is IP based and there are both copper and fibre optic cables available, unplanned and unregulated road works contribute to frequent cable breaks, which can often take up to a week to repair. Setting aside the issues of regular power outages, the authorities are now looking at converting the entire transmission infrastructure over to wireless signal operation. - Source - Bangalore Mirror



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

Protecting the body politic - A comprehensive upgrade of the CCTV systems currently operating at the Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, is now underway. The planned \$ 5m improvements, are scheduled to take place over the next nine months, and will hopefully plug numerous gaps in the existing camera coverage, using the very latest equipment. - Source - [The Australian](#)

There's so much to see - News from Cardiff, Wales, where a new CCTV Control Room has just been launched. Providing 112 monitors capable of displaying over 250 cameras sited throughout the city, the shift staff of two council operators and a South Wales police officer will be able to monitor traffic movements on major roads, whilst also accessing video feeds from a large number of community safety cameras. - Source - [WalesOnline.co.uk](#)

You can't always count on cameras - According to figures released under a Freedom of Information request, crimes recorded in London where CCTV was involved, have fallen by 71% over the last five years. According to information provided from within the Metropolitan Police Service, this may be due in part to a change in the way that CCTV is recorded on a crime report. Whereas previously it was noted that a camera was present in the vicinity of a crime, it is now standard practice to only highlight CCTV when it provides a tangible benefit for an investigation. - Source - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Who's kidding who ...? - A 31 year old Filipino maid has been arrested and charged with child cruelty, by police in Malaysia. The parents of an 11 month old baby returned home to find their child had marks on his face and hands, and whilst the maid denied all knowledge, a quick replay of the video taken from the homes internal covert camera system, revealed the true extent of the maids gross misconduct. - Source - [The Star Online](#)

Cameras banking on success - Jose Banks may have been the key suspect in 21 bank robberies in Chicago, but in the past year, armed hold ups in the city's financial institutions have actually dropped to a six year low. A spokesman for the FBI, has suggested that one key reason may well be the increased use of high quality digital video surveillance systems, which are capable of providing much clearer images of robbery suspects. - Source - [Chicago Tribune](#)

If you've done nothing wrong - Three friends went on a shopping trip to a store in Bristol, UK, but left without purchasing anything. Weeks later, they were horrified to discover that their images had been copied from CCTV footage, and placed by police on a wanted poster issued in connection with inquiries into a subsequent robbery at the store. Somewhat ironically, one of those falsely accused is actually employed as a security guard. A suspect has since been arrested for the crime, and the posters showing the innocent men, have now been withdrawn. - Source - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Blind to the obvious - Police in Auckland, New Zealand are trying to locate three female kidnappers, who held an 82 year old woman hostage in her car. The attackers forced the victim to hand over her credit cards and PIN numbers, then managed to get themselves clearly recorded on CCTV, when they tried to use them to make purchases at the local shopping precinct. - Source - [TV New Zealand](#)

Kids deprived of the goat - For the last 43 years, residents in the swedish town of Gavle have installed a giant straw goat as part of their seasonal yule celebrations. Unfortunately, apart from being smashed, run over and having it's legs removed, the 15 metre high construction has also been torched on 24 separate occasions, so this year the towns elders decided to install CCTV and a webcam to help protect the structure. Despite their best efforts, vandals still managed to reduce the construction to nothing more than a smoldering skeleton, literally days before christmas. - Source - [USA Today](#)

Pull yourself together - A female resident of Altoona in Pennsylvania, USA has complained about a police monitored Public Space Surveillance camera which has been installed just 10 feet from her bedroom window. In response, the city's Director of Information Technology, has usefully pointed out that "No one's looking in anyone's window", adding that if she's doing something she doesn't want others to see, she can draw the blinds. - Source - [AltoonaMirror.com](#)

Grave situation demands constant watching - Authorities have installed CCTV and extra lighting at the Southern Cemetery in Chorlton, Manchester, UK, following a spate of attacks on muslim gravestones. It's hoped the extra surveillance will help to prevent crimes which local police have described as racially motivated. - Source - [BBC News](#)

The damage is already done - A plastics manufacturing plant in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA has suffered around \$3m of damage, following a concerted attack by a lone vandal. The suspect who may have been a former employee of the company, was caught briefly on a neighbouring business's CCTV system, but the images are of such poor quality as to be of only very limited value. Meanwhile the owner has reported that competitors have offered to provide spare manufacturing capacity, in order to help the company fulfill their existing orders. - Source - [Indiana's News Center](#)

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Well that's the very first Newsletter of the New Year done and dusted, and I hope you found something of interest within it. If you didn't and you have a suggestion for possible inclusion in future editions, why not drop me a line:- newsdesk@doktorjon.co.uk If you happen to know someone that would like to receive their own copies, or if you decide you don't wish to receive future editions, then please let me know. Hopefully the next Newsletter will be published sometime towards the end of February, so until then, here's wishing you great good fortune in the coming month ahead *D.J.*

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