



OFFICE OF THE BIOMETRICS  
AND SURVEILLANCE  
CAMERA COMMISSIONER

Professor Fraser Sampson  
Biometrics & Surveillance Camera  
Commissioner  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Date: 27 October 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/biometrics-and-surveillance-camera-commissioner>

To:  
Chief Executive  
Kent Police and Essex Police

**Letter by email**

Dear Chief Executive,

**Certificate of compliance of surveillance camera systems and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 by the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner.**

As you will be aware, my role as the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner was created by virtue of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA). I am appointed by the Home Secretary under the terms of section 34(1) PoFA and independent of Government.

As Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner I have a number of statutory functions, one of which is to encourage *relevant authorities*, as defined by section 33(5) of the Act, to comply with the Secretary of State's "*Surveillance Camera Code of Practice*" (the Code). Your council is a relevant authority as defined by the Act and as such you have responsibilities arising from the legislation and the Code in respect of all public space surveillance camera systems which you operate. The Code can be accessed via the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-surveillance-camera-code>

Amongst my statutory functions I work closely with independent accreditation bodies within the security industry to deliver a certification scheme in respect of the surveillance camera systems in public places and which fall within my regulatory remit. One of those accreditation bodies is the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB).

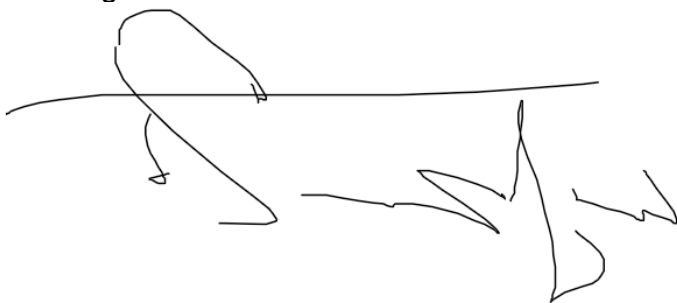
This scheme enables organisations to demonstrate that the systems they operate comply with the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the Code. By successfully engaging with the accreditation bodies and my certification scheme, an organisation, and

more importantly the public, may be reassured that surveillance camera systems which intrude upon their privacy are being *demonstrably* operated ethically and legitimately to an appropriate standard.

As you know I was delighted to acknowledge the commitment demonstrated by your council in that regard in achieving my certification in respect of your Body Worn Video (BWV) systems. May I now congratulate you upon your successful engagement with SSAIB in respect of your annual review of my certification of those systems which was conducted on 20 October 2022.

Please convey my appreciation to those members of your staff who completed the annual desk top review process.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Sampson', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Fraser Sampson  
Biometrics & Surveillance Camera Commissioner England & Wales  
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